



48 PAGES--EVERY WEEK!

ACTION

COMICS WEEKLY

NO. 629

\$1.50

CAN \$2.00

U.K. 60p

**THE SECRET OF
MOCKINGBIRD!**



PLUS:

BLACKHAWK • NIGHTWING
SUPERMAN • BLACK CANARY
GREEN LANTERN

ROCKWELL

GREEN LANTERN

TWENTY YEARS AGO HE WAS NATHANIEL ADAM, A RELUCTANT PARTICIPANT IN A BIZARRE EXPERIMENT. THIS EXPERIMENT PROPELLED HIM FORWARD TWENTY YEARS IN TIME AND LEFT HIM ENCASED WITHIN A METALLIC SHELL OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL ORIGIN.

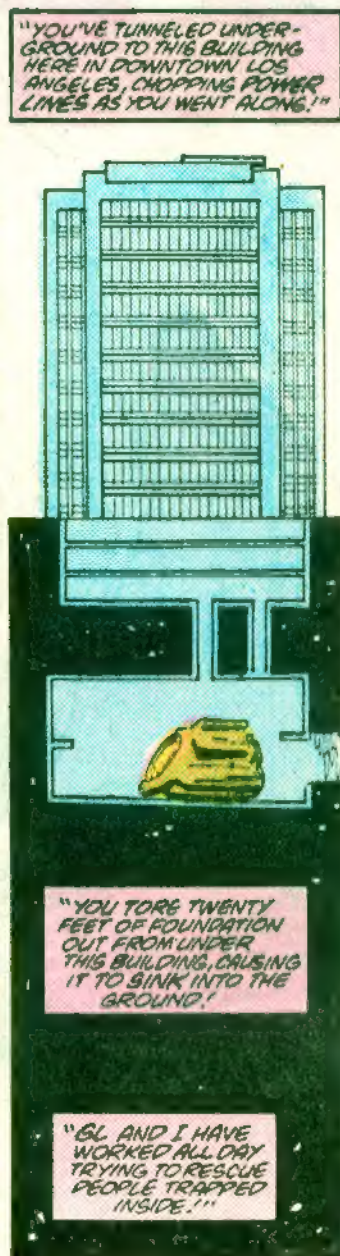
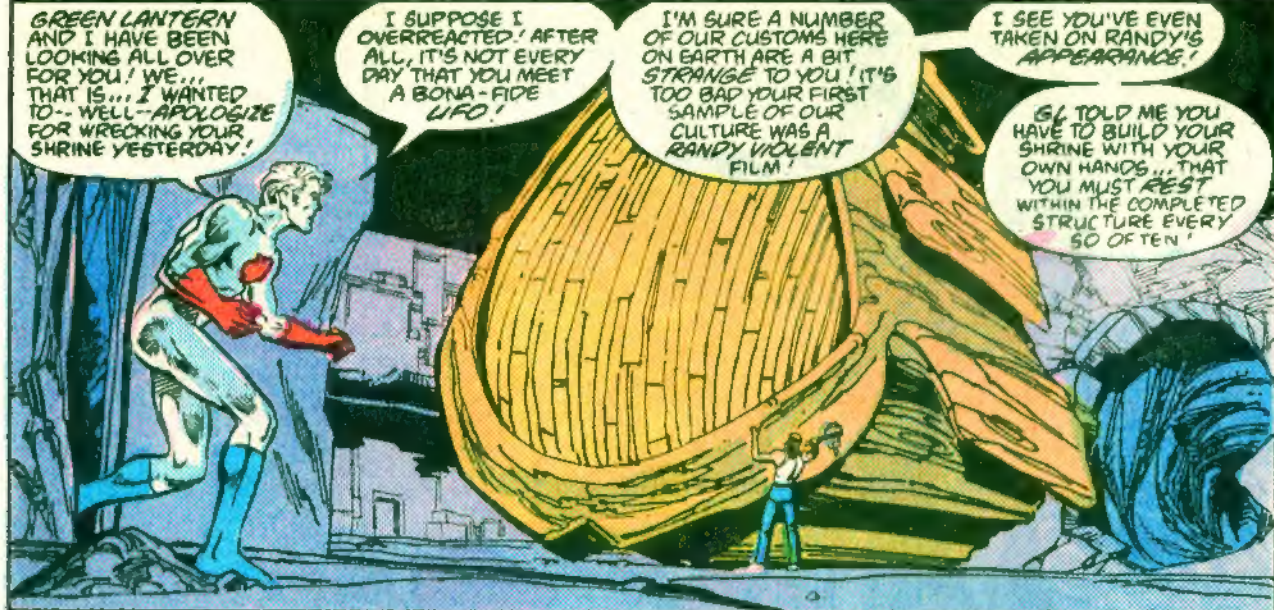
NOW WITH THE ABILITY TO MANIPULATE THE PURE ENERGY REALM KNOWN AS THE QUANTUM FIELD, ADAM WORKS IN CONJUNCTION WITH BOTH THE U.S. AIR FORCE AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL, USING THE CODE NAME--

"SO LONG AGO THE GARDEN"

CAPTAIN ATOM

BY JAMES OWNSLEY
PLOT/SCRIPT
M.D. BRIGHT
PLOT/PENCIL
ROMEO TANGHAL
INKS
ALBERT DE GUZMAN
LETTERER
ANTHONY TOLLIN
COLORS
DAN RASPLER
ASST. EDITOR
DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR

THERE YOU ARE!



MEANWHILE, ON THE STREET ABOVE...

THIS BRACE MY RING IS GENERATING IS ALL THAT'S KEEPING THIS BUILDING FROM COLLAPSING! I'VE BEEN HOLDING IT UP FOR OVER AN HOUR!

HAVEN'T SLEPT IN THE TWO DAYS SINCE THE ALIEN'S ARRIVAL... I'M REALLY WHIPPED! IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP FROM BLACKING OUT!

ALSO, MY RING NEEDS CHARGING!

THAT'S IT! LANTERN! WE THINK EVERYBODY'S OUT!

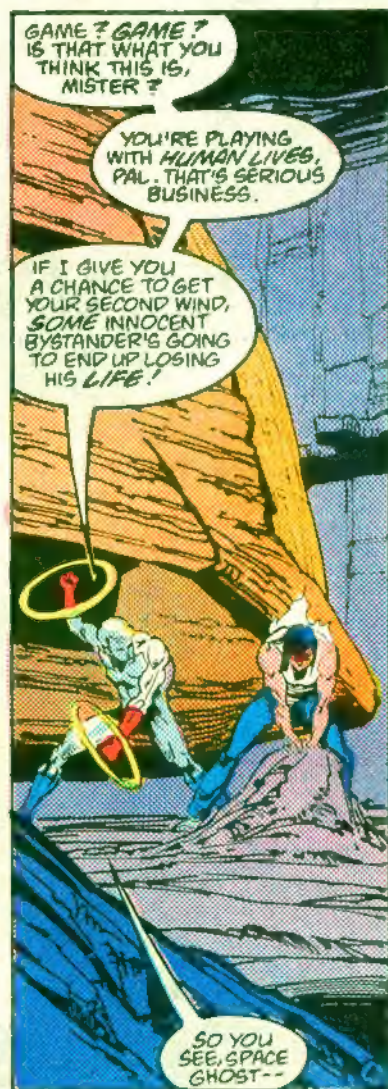
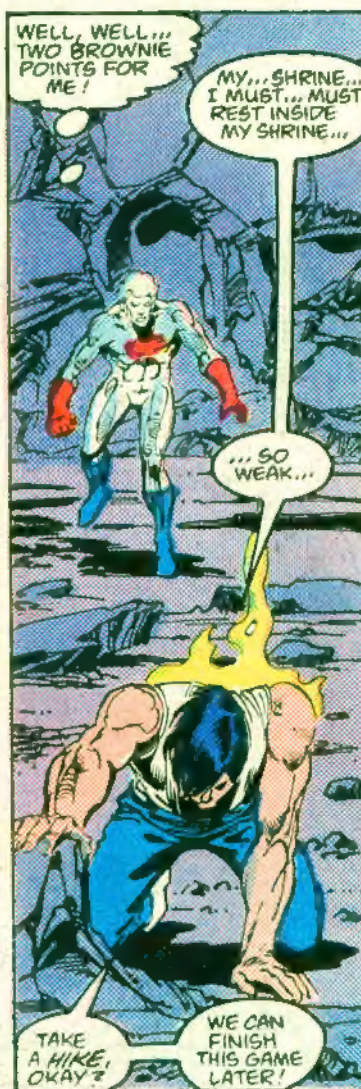
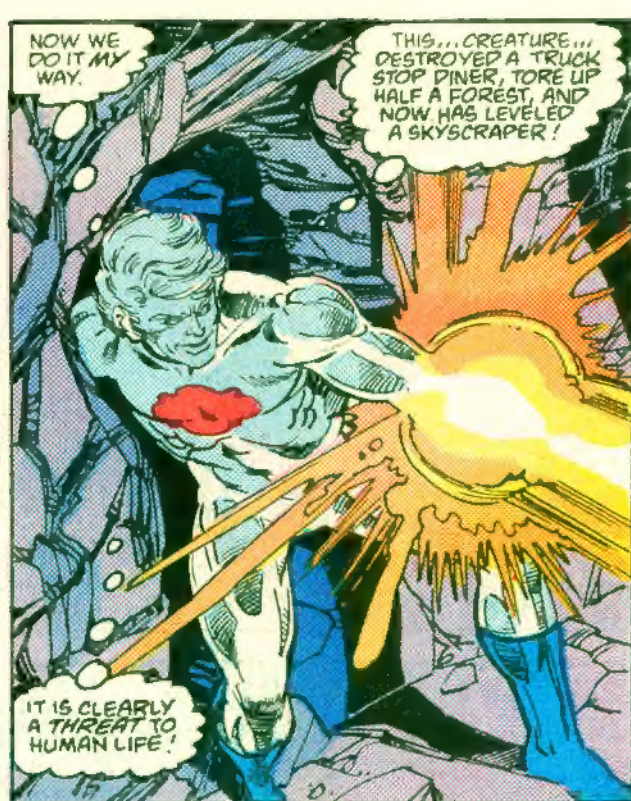
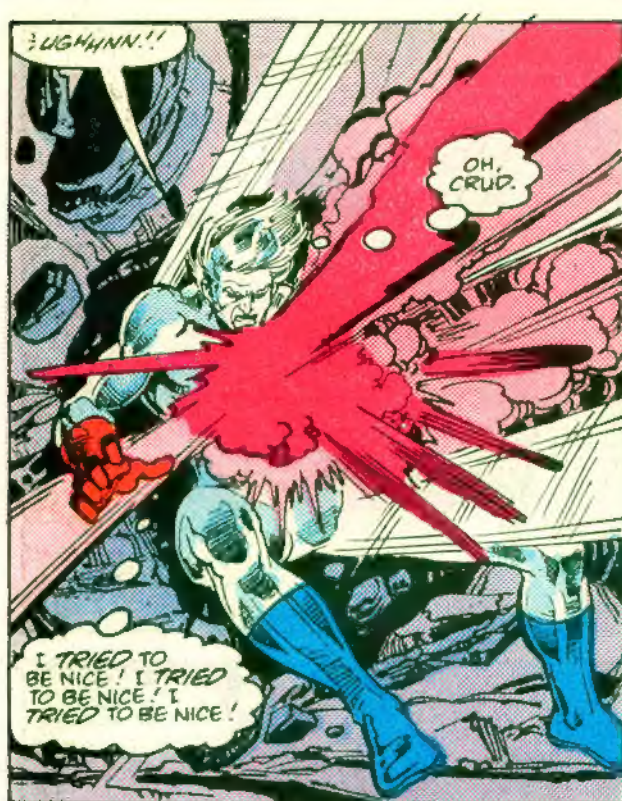
THE AREA'S BEEN EVACUATED! SOON AS WE GIVE THE WORD, YOU CAN LET GO!

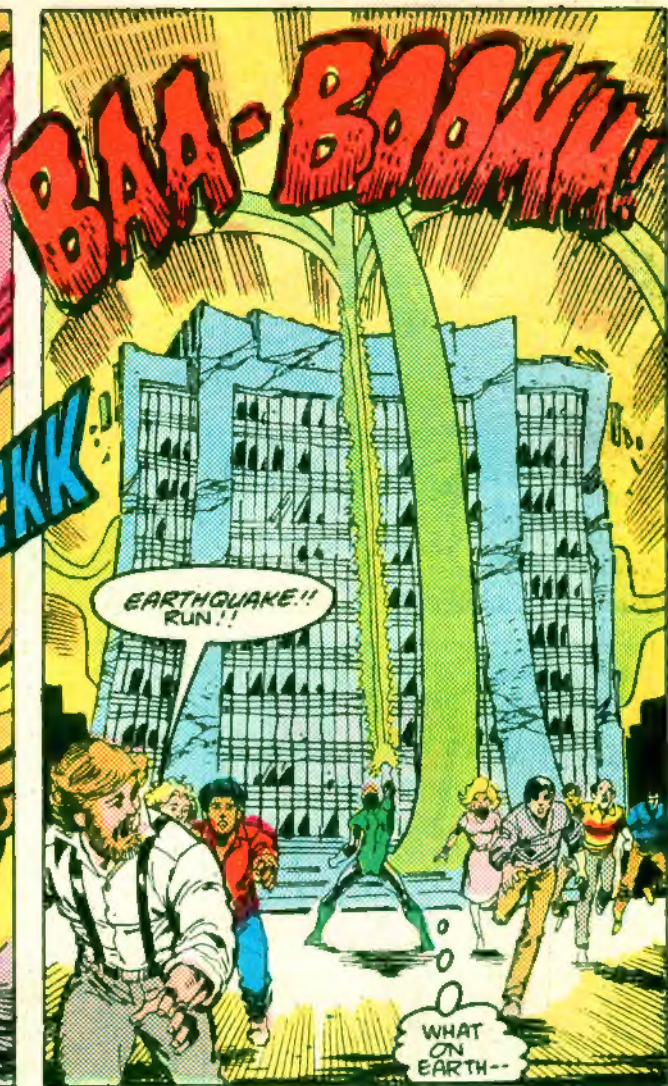
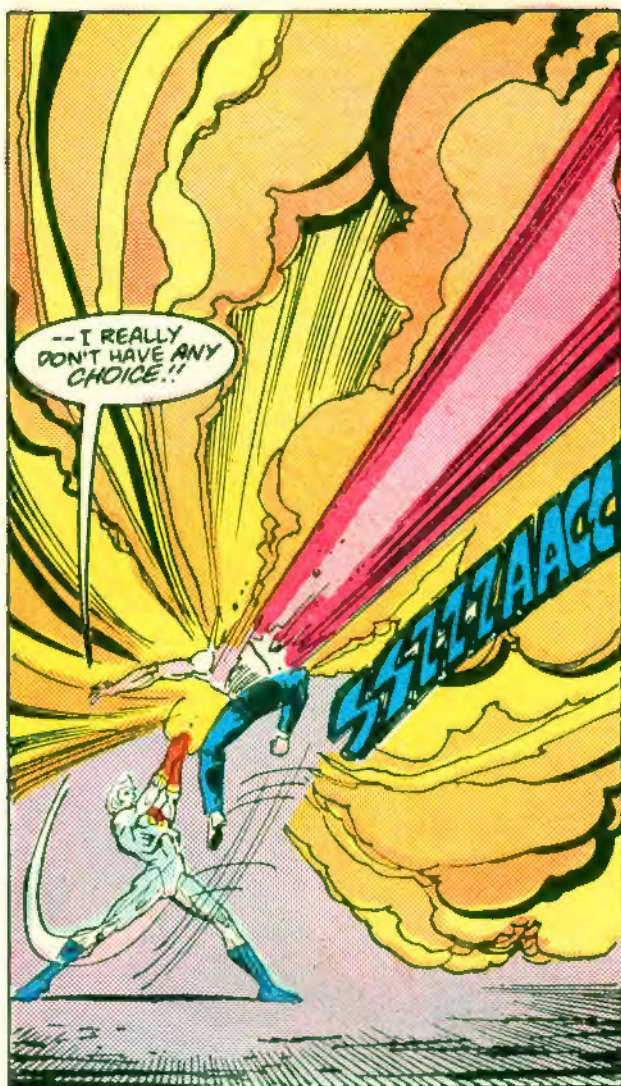
ALL RIGHT... JUST HURRY...

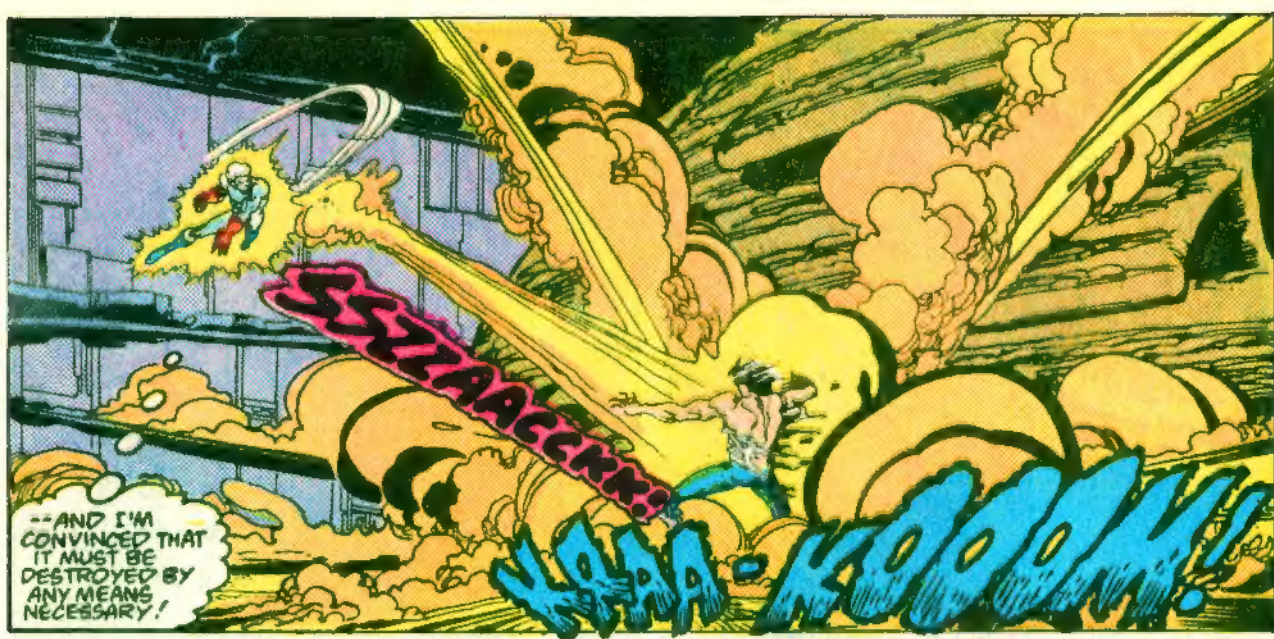
WE'RE GONNA MAKE ONE LAST SWEEP THROUGH TO MAKE SURE!

THOSE BRAVE MEN... ENTRUSTING THEIR LIVES TO ME... GOT TO HOLD ON...

WHAT I'M REALLY SPOOKED ABOUT IS WHAT THAT HOTHEAD CAPTAIN ATOM IS UP TO BELOW THE SURFACE...







--AND I'M CONVINCED THAT IT MUST BE DESTROYED BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY!

KRAA-KROON!

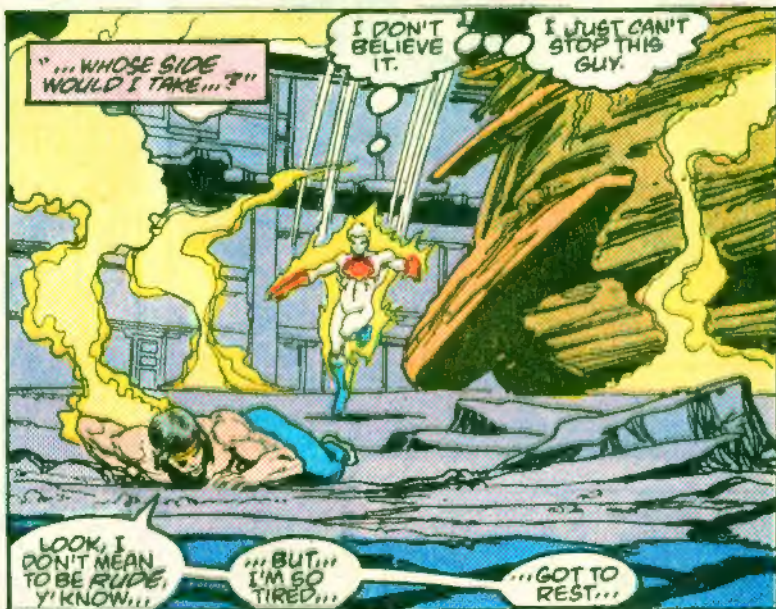


BAA-ROOM!

CAPTAIN ATOM, YOU JERK!! WHAT THE BLAZES IS GOING ON DOWN THERE?!

EACH OF THOSE TREMORS IMPACTS ON MY BRACE-- MAKES IT HARDER FOR ME TO HOLD ON!!

THING IS, EVEN IF I COULD LET GO... AND INTERCEDE IN THE FIGHT...



"...WHOSE SIDE WOULD I TAKE...?"

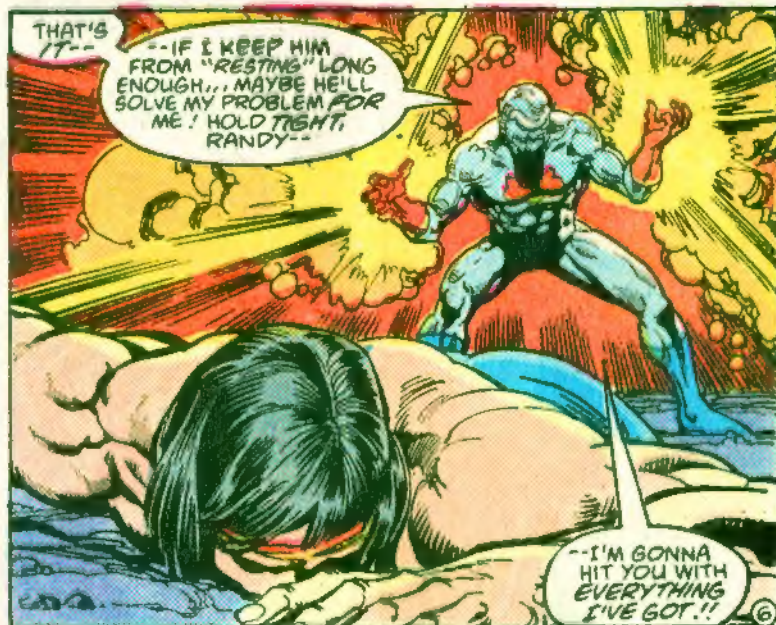
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

I JUST CAN'T STOP THIS GUY.

LOOK, I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, Y'KNOW...

...BUT... I'M SO TIRED...

...GOT TO REST...



THAT'S IT--

--IF I KEEP HIM FROM "RESTING" LONG ENOUGH... MAYBE HE'LL SOLVE MY PROBLEM FOR ME! HOLD TIGHT, RANDY--

--I'M GONNA HIT YOU WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!!

FIRST, IT SOUNDS
LIKE THUNDER.



THEN, LIKE
ARMAGEDDON.



THE LOS ANGELES
POWER LINES THAT
HAVE TAKEN SUCH
A BEATING TODAY
FINALLY DIE OUT...

...EVEN AS THE
PAVEMENT
BUCKLES AND
TWISTS!



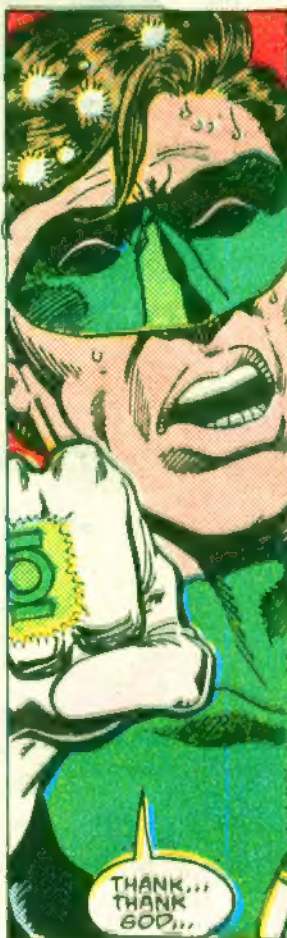
THE SHOCKWAVE...
OF MASSIVE
PROPORTIONS!!

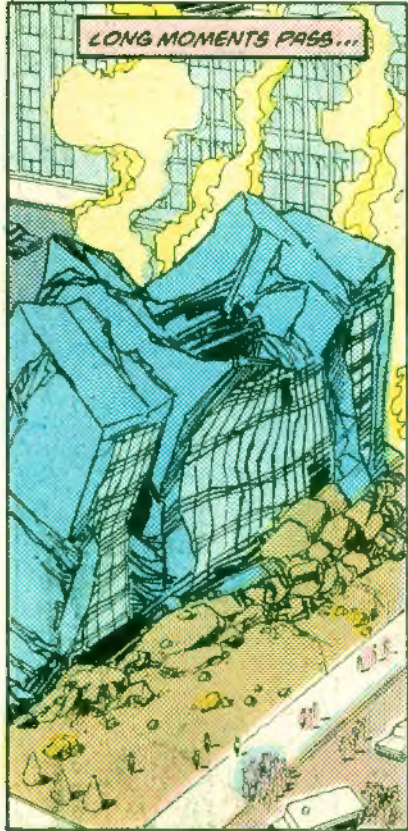
I'M LOSING THE
BUILDING... CAN'T
HOLD IT...



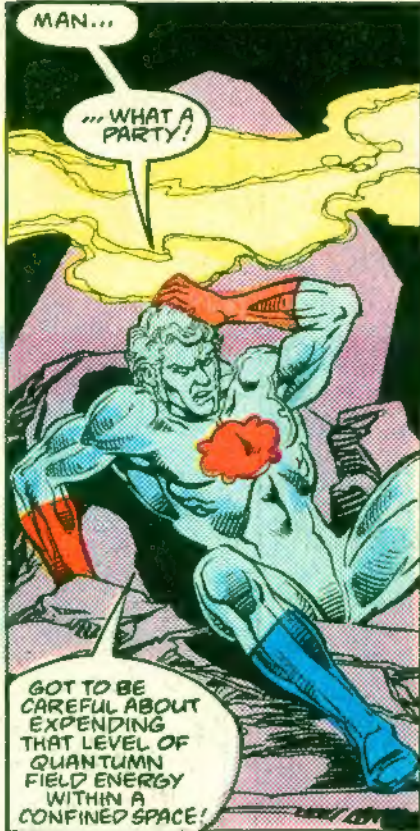
OKAY,
GL--

--WE'RE
CLEAR!!





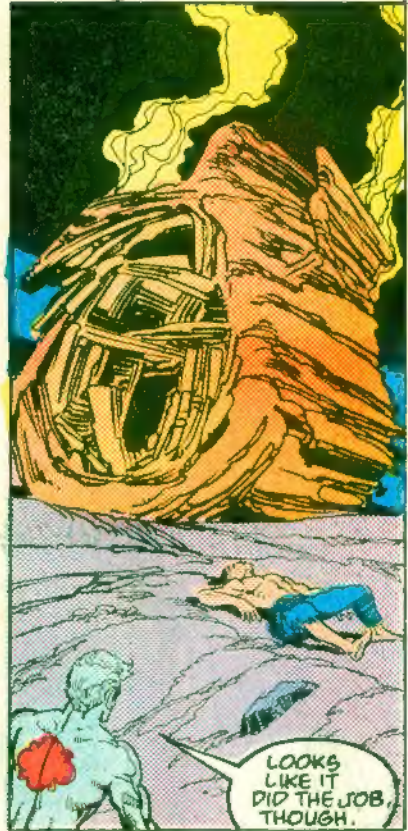
LONG MOMENTS PASS...



MAN...

...WHAT A PARTY!

GOT TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT EXPENDING THAT LEVEL OF QUANTUM FIELD ENERGY WITHIN A CONFINED SPACE!



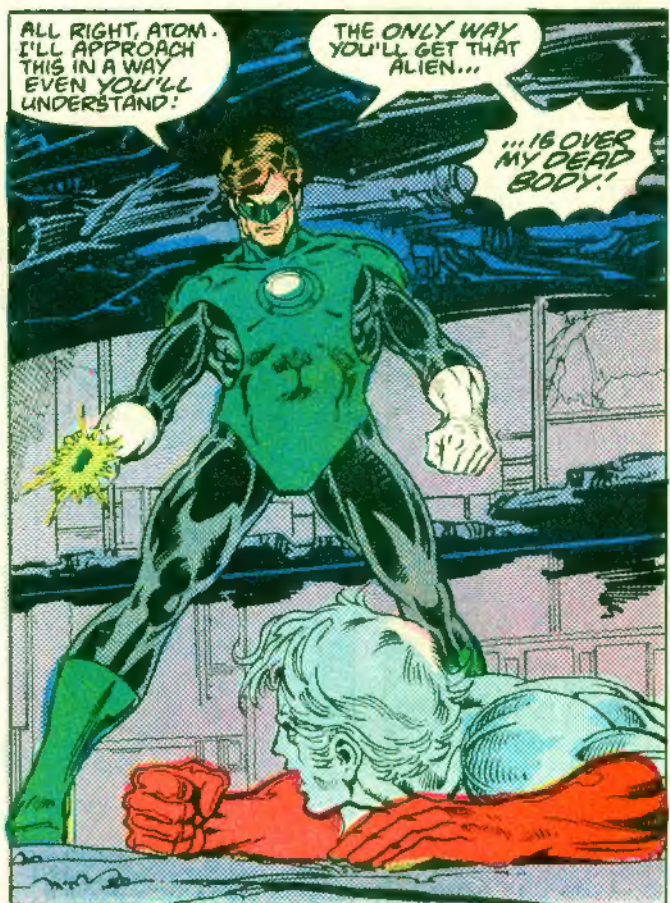
LOOKS LIKE IT DID THE JOB, THOUGH.



ALMOST. HE'S STILL MOVING--



--YEEAARRGGHH!!



ALL RIGHT, ATOM. I'LL APPROACH THIS IN A WAY EVEN YOU'LL UNDERSTAND!

THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL GET THAT ALIEN...

...IS OVER MY DEAD BODY!

GREEN LANTERN VS. CAPTAIN ATOM

(REALLY... DO WE HAVE TO SAY MORE...?)

BLACK CANARY

knock 'em
DEAD

PART

G

Sharon Wright writer

Randy DuBurke penciller

Pablo Marcos inker

Steve Haynie letterer

Gene D'Angelo colorist

Robert Greenberger editor



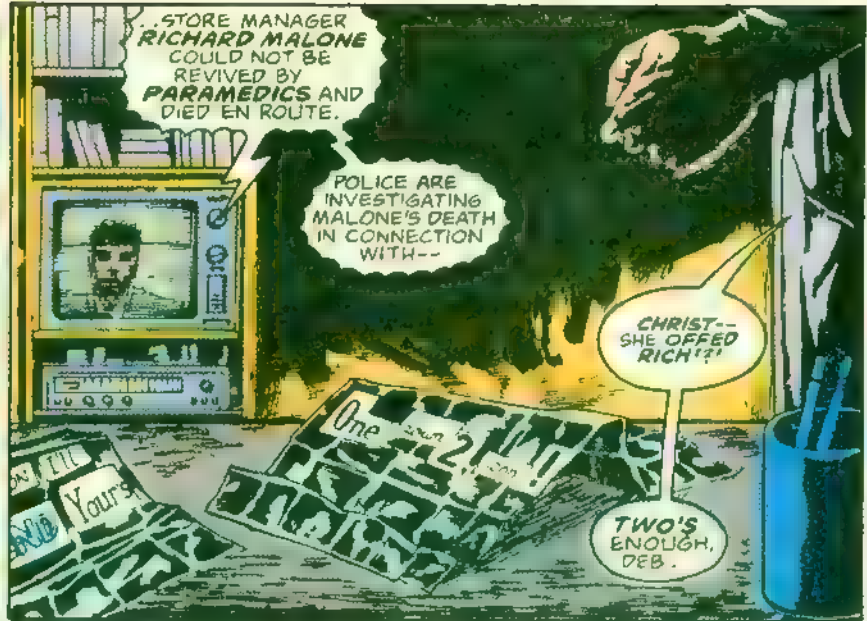


WITH THE RED CROSS BLOOD BANK, MR. GLAZIER.

RECORDS SHOW THAT YOU'RE TYPE AB NEGATIVE-- WE'RE IN DESPERATELY SHORT SUPPLY OF THIS RARE--!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

I CAN'T DONATE.



STORE MANAGER RICHARD MALONE COULD NOT BE REVIVED BY PARAMEDICS AND DIED EN ROUTE.

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING MALONE'S DEATH IN CONNECTION WITH--

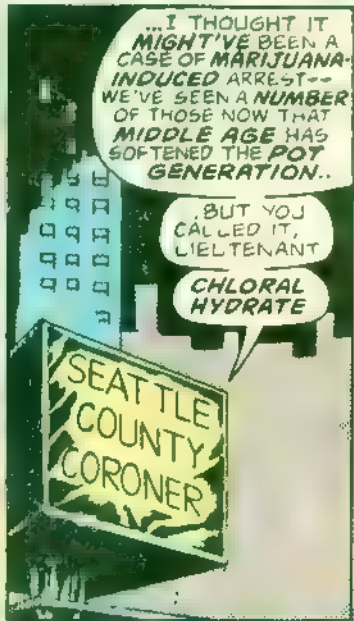
CHRIST-- SHE OFFED RICH?!

TWO'S ENOUGH, DEB.



...I'M CALLING THE GAME

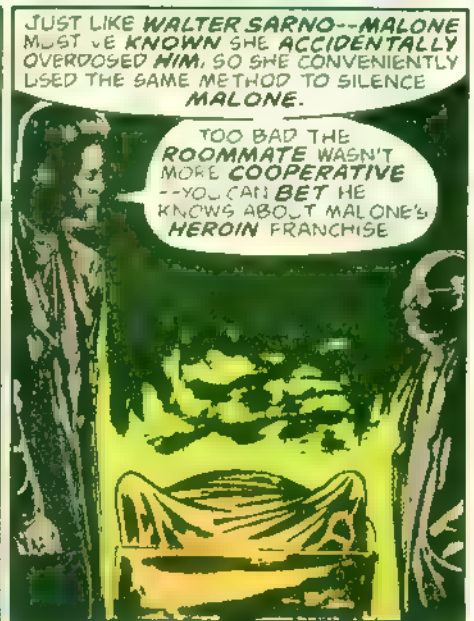
SEATTLE POLICE INV'S BLE WITNESS HOTLINE



...I THOUGHT IT MIGHT'VE BEEN A CASE OF MARIJUANA-INDUCED ARREST-- WE'VE SEEN A NUMBER OF THOSE NOW THAT MIDDLE AGE HAS SOFTENED THE POT GENERATION..

BUT YOU CALLED IT, LIEUTENANT

CHLORAL HYDRATE



JUST LIKE WALTER SARNO--MALONE MUST'VE KNOWN SHE ACCIDENTALLY OVERDOSED HIM, SO SHE CONVENIENTLY USED THE SAME METHOD TO SILENCE MALONE.

TOO BAD THE ROOMMATE WASN'T MORE COOPERATIVE --YOU CAN BET HE KNOWS ABOUT MALONE'S HEROIN FRANCHISE



OUR MR. MALONE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF AN EXPECTANCY, ANYWAY-- HE WAS PRETTY ABUSIVE TO HIS BODY IN HIS YOUTH...

AND HIS BLOOD WORK SHOWS HM TO BE A FLODRISHING AIDS CASE

LIEUTENANT..



JUST GOT A FULL NAME AND ADDRESS FOR OUR SUSPECT IN THE SARNO MURDER--WITNESS HOTLINE.

SOUNDS LEGIT



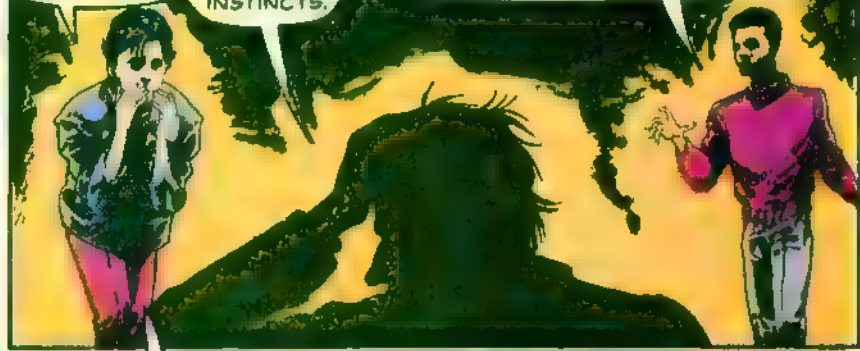
GOSH,
DINAH--
ARE YOU
OKAY?!

I'M FINE...
BETTER CHECK
ON CAPTAIN
HOOK, THOUGH

SORRY
ABOUT THAT--
INSTINCTIVE
REACTION.

YOU HAVE
STRONG
INSTINCTS.

WE WERE JUST PUTTING THE FINISHING
TOUCHES ON THE BIG FIGHT BETWEEN
HOOK AND PAN--WE'RE TAKING IT OUT
INTO THE AUDIENCE.

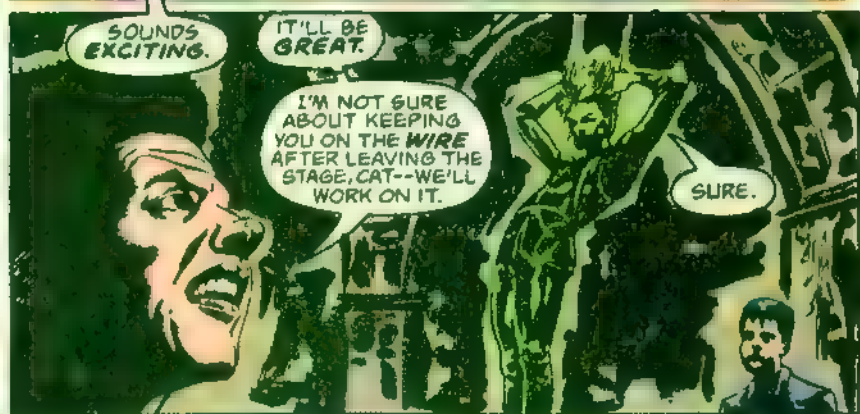


SOUNDS
EXCITING.

IT'LL BE
GREAT.

I'M NOT SURE
ABOUT KEEPING
YOU ON THE WIRE
AFTER LEAVING THE
STAGE, CAT--WE'LL
WORK ON IT.

SURE.



EVERYONE--THIS IS
DINAH LANCE.

SHE HELPED US DRUM
UP DONATIONS AND IS
PROVIDING THE FOLIAGE
FOR THE SETS.

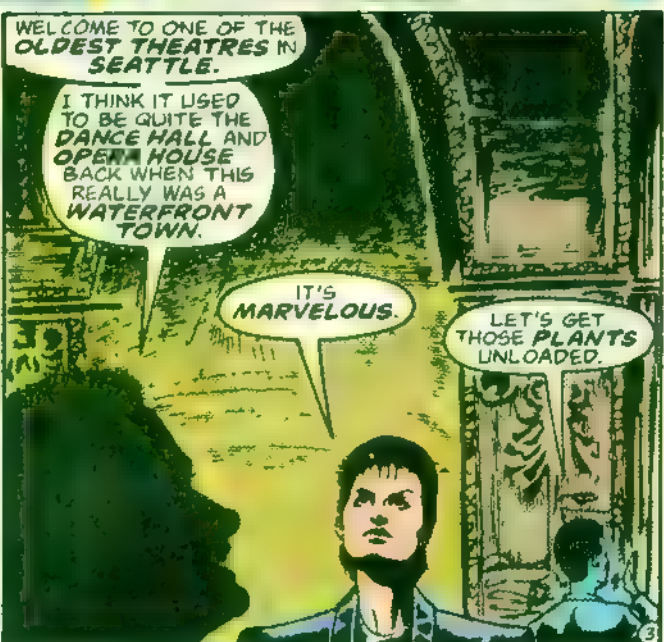
DINAH
JASON MARSH
IN THE ROLE OF
CAPTAIN HOOK.

A
PLEASURE.
REALLY.



AND AS PETER PAN,
HIMSELF... ELLEN
JAMERSON.

CALL
ME CAT--
EVERYONE
DOES



WELCOME TO ONE OF THE
OLDEST THEATRES IN
SEATTLE.

I THINK IT USED
TO BE QUITE THE
DANCE HALL AND
OPERA HOUSE
BACK WHEN THIS
REALLY WAS A
WATERFRONT
TOWN.

IT'S
MARVELOUS.

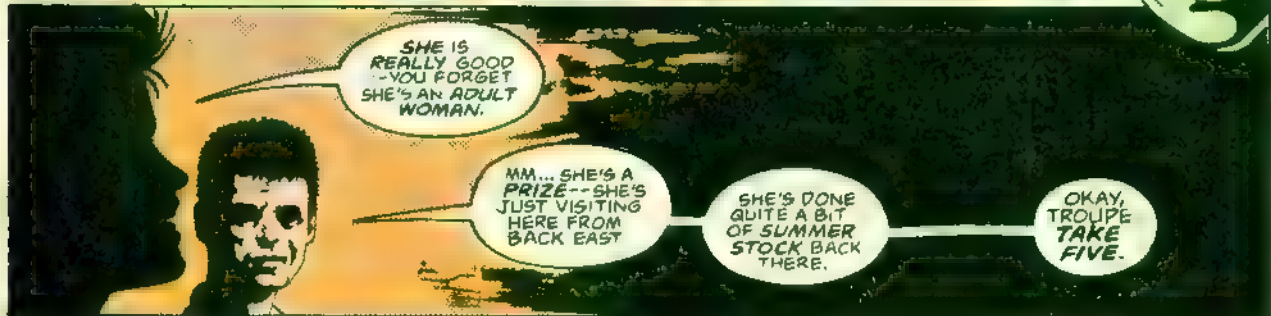
LET'S GET
THOSE PLANTS
UNLOADED.



CAN YOU STAY?

FOR A FEW MINUTES

GOOD--
YOU'LL ENJOY THIS

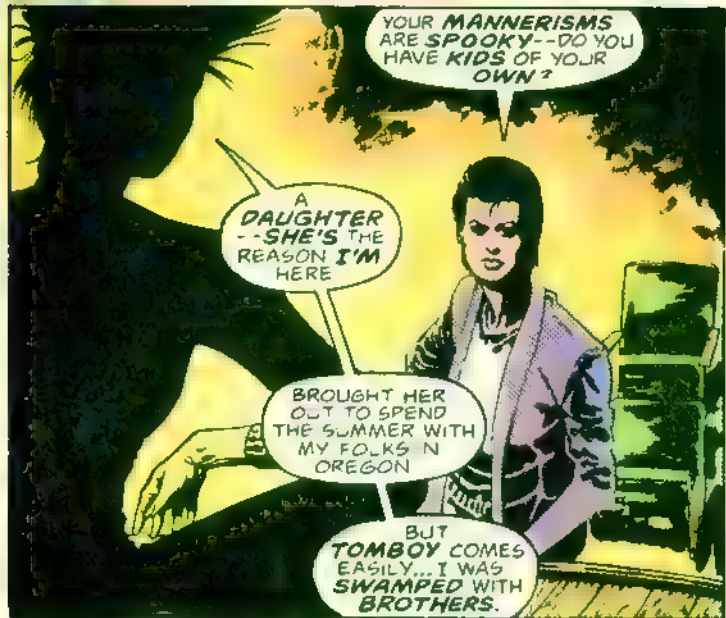


SHE IS REALLY GOOD
--YOU FORGET
SHE'S AN ADULT WOMAN.

MM... SHE'S A PRIZE--
SHE'S JUST VISITING
HERE FROM BACK EAST

SHE'S DONE QUITE A BIT
OF SUMMER STOCK BACK THERE.

OKAY, TROUPE
TAKE FIVE.



YOUR MANNERISMS ARE SPOOKY--DO YOU HAVE KIDS OF YOUR OWN?

A DAUGHTER--
SHE'S THE REASON I'M HERE

BROUGHT HER OUT TO SPEND THE SUMMER WITH MY FOLKS IN OREGON

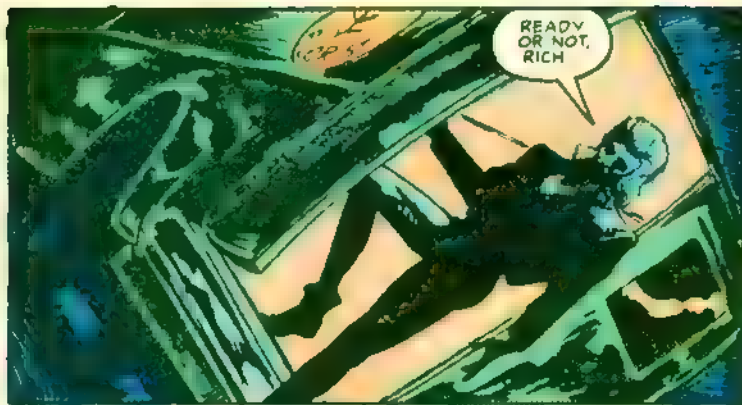
BUT TOMBOY COMES EASILY... I WAS SWAMPED WITH BROTHERS.



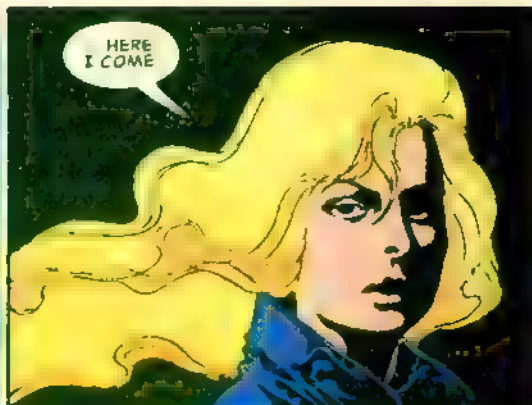
GOTTA RUN.

D'NAH, THANKS--COME SEE THE SHOW!

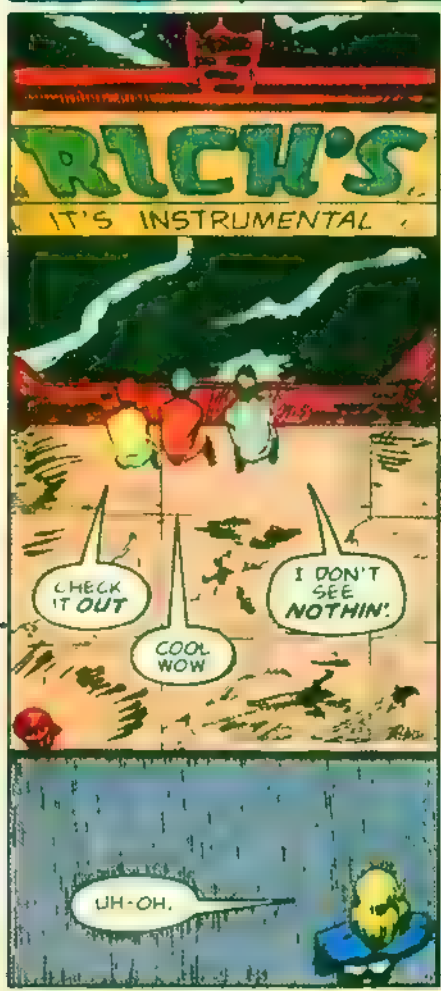
OH, I WILL. I'LL BE USHERING SOMEONE



READY
OR NOT,
RICH



HERE
I COME



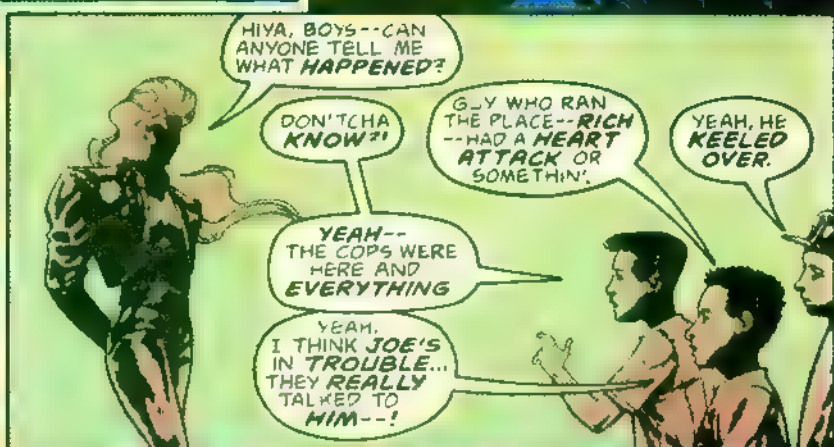
RICH'S
IT'S INSTRUMENTAL

CHECK
IT OUT

COOL
WOW

I DON'T
SEE
NOTHIN'

UH-OH.



HIYA, BOYS--CAN
ANYONE TELL ME
WHAT HAPPENED?

DON'TCHA
KNOW?!

GUY WHO RAN
THE PLACE--RICH
--HAD A HEART
ATTACK OR
SOMETHIN'.

YEAH, HE
KEELED
OVER.

YEAH--
THE COPS WERE
HERE AND
EVERYTHING

YEAH,
I THINK JOE'S
IN TROUBLE...
THEY REALLY
TALKED TO
HIM--!



I DIDN'T
SEE
NOTHIN'

WHO S--



HEY, YO...
KIDS BUG
OUT!!

JOE!!

YOU TOO,
LADY



I'M
OUTTA
HERE



WERE YOU RICH'S ROOMMATE?

YEAH, WHO ARE YOU-- A SINGER?

I'M LOOKING FOR RICH'S KILLER.



I'M TELLIN' YOU WHAT I TOLD THE POLICE.

NOTHIN'.

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING AN'--!

OH, YES.



YOU KNOW SOMETHING

YOU KNOW THE WOMAN'S NAME --POSSIBLY HER ADDRESS.

AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU KNOW WHO'S HANDLING RICH'S CANDY CLIENTS NOW--AND DEBORAH WAS PARTICULAR ABOUT HER HEROIN.



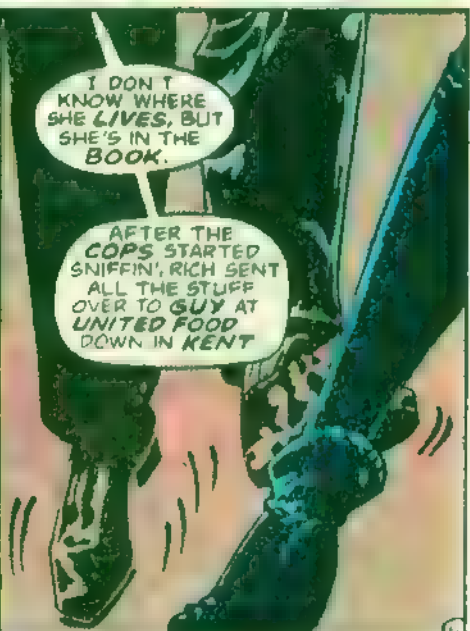
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN BUSTING ANYONE FOR TRAFFICKING.

AND YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN ANYTHING SHARP AGAINST THE ROOF OF YOUR MOUTH



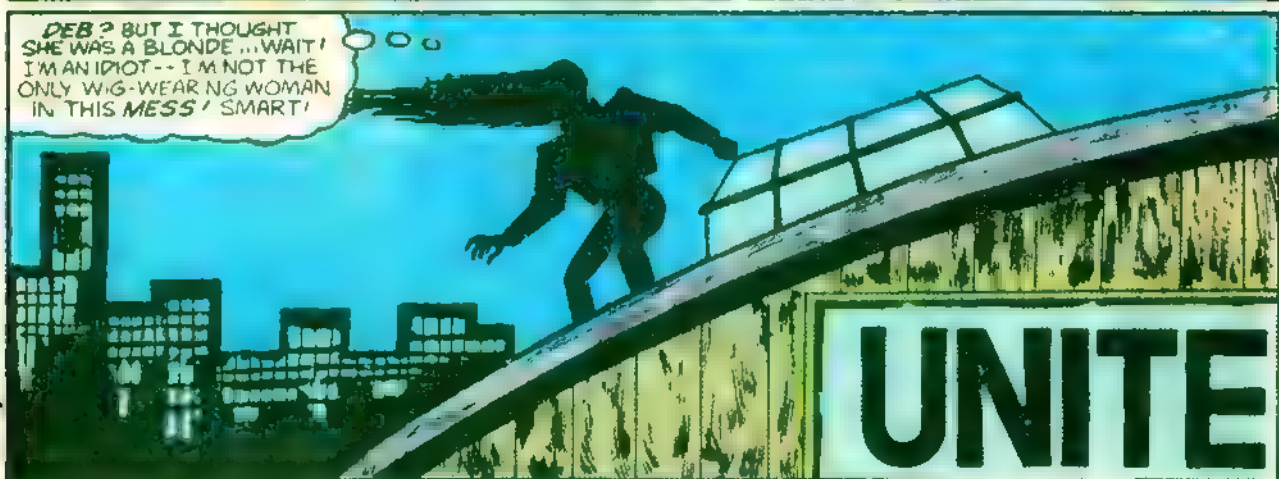
I JUST WANT THE DEB.

HER NAME'S DEBORAH TILDEN.



I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE LIVES, BUT SHE'S IN THE BOOK.

AFTER THE COPS STARTED SNIFFIN', RICH SENT ALL THE STUFF OVER TO GUY AT UNITED FOOD DOWN IN KENT



GEORGETOWN--
6:33 A.M., JULY 11

"THE AGENCY" IS
FINISHED, FENADY.
AND YOUR PEOPLE
CAN FOLLOW YOU
INTO HELL FOR
ALL I CARE--

--THEY JUST
WON'T BE ON THE
FEDERAL PAYROLL
WHILE THEY'RE
DOING IT.

EXCUSE ME,
SIR--PHONE
FOR MR. FENADY

IT'S INTERDEPARTMENTAL
SECURITY. THEY'RE PICKED UP
AN ALARM FROM "THE
WORKSHOP". SOME SORT
OF DISTURBANCE THERE

MR. FENADY IS NO
LONGER WITH US,
HARRIS

ALERT THE ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR TO THIS. HE'LL
BE ASSUMING MR. FENADY'S
DUTIES. FOR THE TIME
BEING.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME,
WALTER. YOU KNOW
YOUR WAY OUT.

GOOD MORNING,
EVERYONE. I'M MRS.
HEPPEL--"MR. BYRD'S"
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT

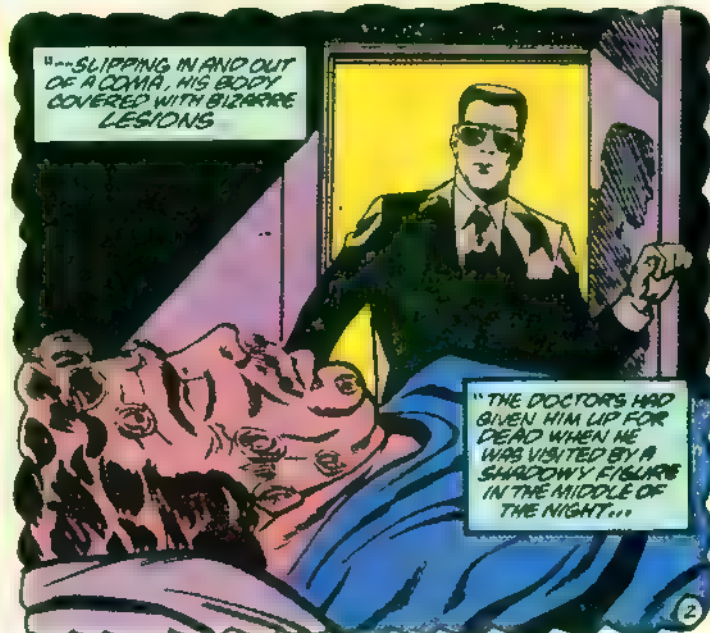
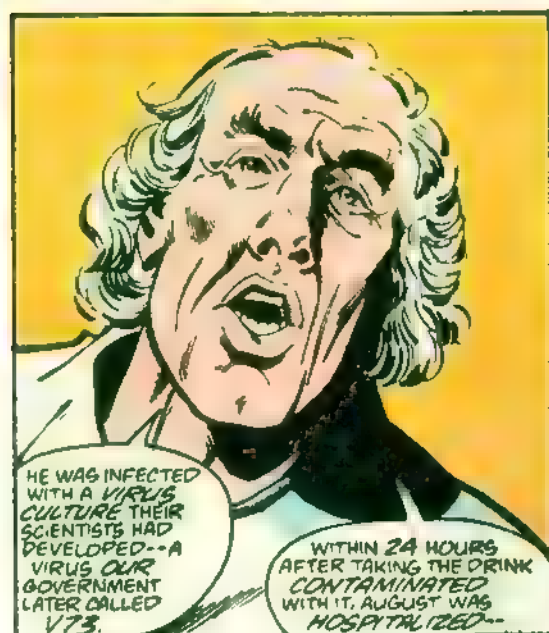
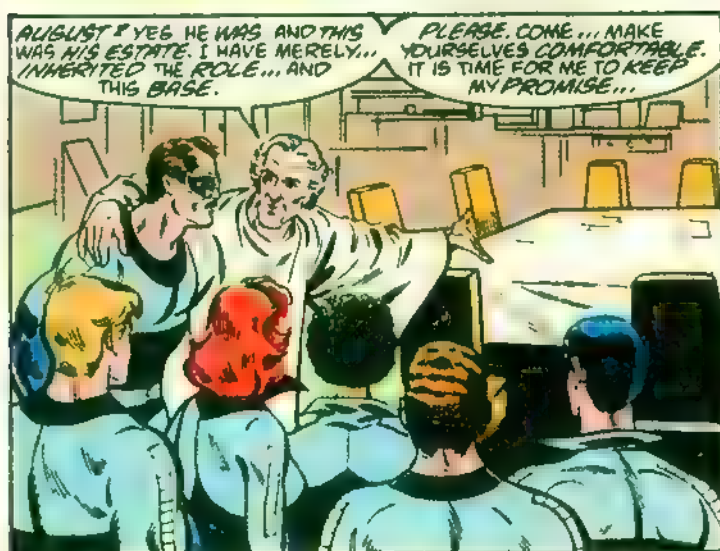
I'M SURE
YOU KNOW HE'S
EXPECTING
YOU--

CHEVY CHASE,
MARYLAND--
7:15 A.M.

THE
SECRET SIX!

BEGINNING OF THE END

WRITTEN BY MARTIN PASKO / DRAWN BY FRANK SPRINGER & FRANK McLAUGHLIN
LETTERED BY ALBERT DE GUZMAN / COLORED BY CARL GAFFORD / EDITED BY ROBERT GREENBERGER

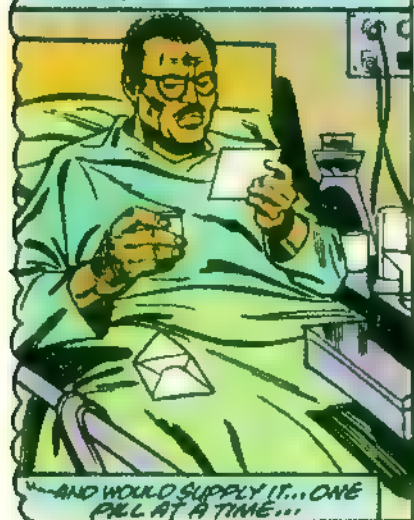




"WHERE UPON THE MAN LEFT WITHOUT UTTERING A WORD."

"LATER AUGUST REMEMBERED NOTHING EXCEPT WHAT HE FELT IN A MOMENT OF FLEETING CONSCIOUSNESS--THE SENSATION OF A PILL BEING FORCED DOWN HIS THROAT."

"WHEN THE SYMPTOMS ABATED, DURANT AWOKES TO DISCOVER THAT 'THE AGENCY'--AN ORGANIZATION HE'D NEVER HEARD OF--HAD DEVELOPED A MEDICATION THAT WOULD KEEP HIM ALIVE--"



"--AND WOULD SUPPLY IT... ONE PILL AT A TIME..."

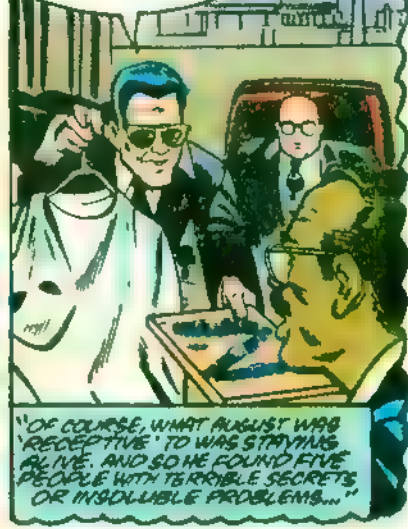
"...IF HE WAS RECEPTIVE TO THEIR PROPOSITION:"



"WE NEED A MAN OF YOUR SCIENTIFIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS, DOCTOR--"

"--TO ASSEMBLE A TEAM OF SPECIAL AGENTS--
--A SECRET TASK FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL CRIME--"

"--TO BE DEPLOYED PER OUR DIRECTIVES. YOU WILL OPERATE UNDER THE CODE-NAME 'MOCKINGBIRD...'"



"OF COURSE, WHAT AUGUST WAS 'RECEPTIVE' TO WAS STAYING ALIVE. AND SO HE FOUND FIVE PEOPLE WITH TERRIBLE SECRETS OR INSOLUBLE PROBLEMS..."

"--AND EXTRACTED THEIR CO-OPERATION IN MUCH THE SAME WAY THE AGENCY HAD DONE WITH HIM--"

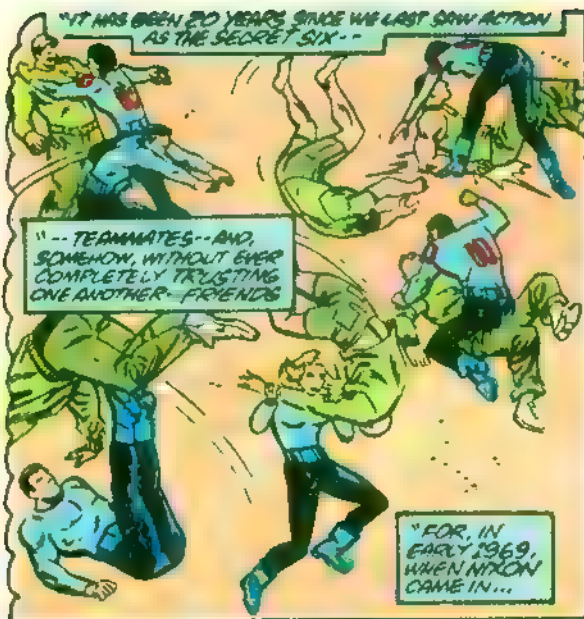


"--IN EXCHANGE FOR PROTECTION OR AID, MADE POSSIBLE BY THE AGENCY'S RESOURCES."

"WE ALL KNEW EACH OTHER'S HISTORIES--AND THAT MOCKINGBIRD WAS ONE OF US."



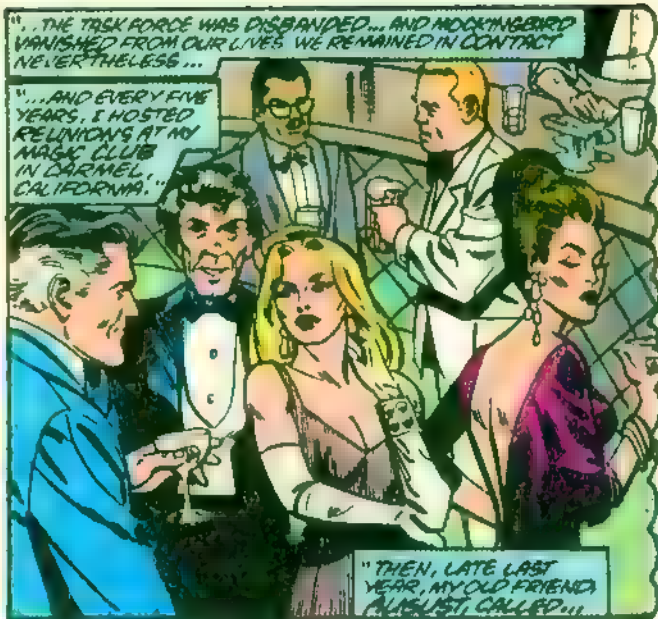
"AUGUST HAD TOLD US THAT MOCKINGBIRD SUPPLIED HIS PILLS. I NEVER SUSPECTED HOW SLIGHT A VARIATION ON THE TRUTH THAT WAS."



"IT HAS BEEN 20 YEARS SINCE WE LAST SAW ACTION AS THE SECRET SIX..."

"...TEAMMATES--AND, SOMEHOW, WITHOUT EVER COMPLETELY TRUSTING ONE ANOTHER--FRIENDS"

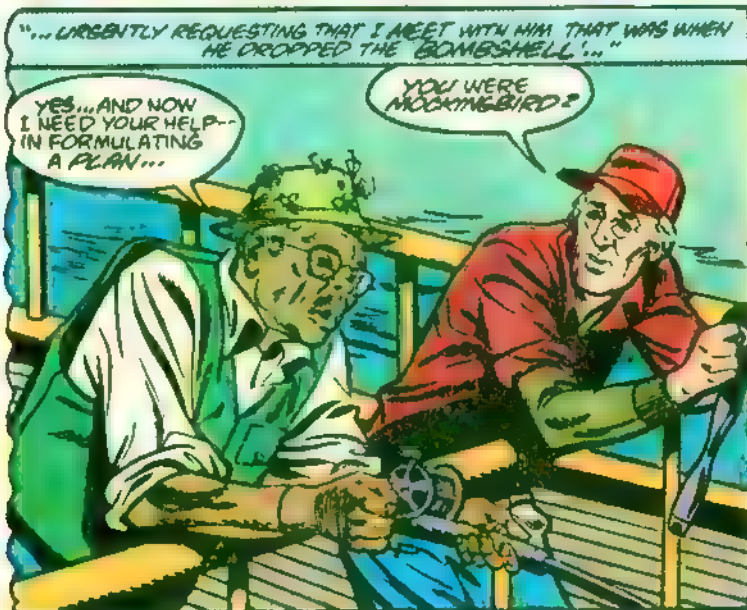
"FOR, IN EARLY 1969, WHEN NIXON CAME IN..."



"THE TASK FORCE WAS DISBANDED... AND MOCKINGBIRD VANISHED FROM OUR LIVES. WE REMAINED IN CONTACT NEVERTHELESS..."

"...AND EVERY FIVE YEARS, I HOSTED REUNIONS AT MY MAGE CLUB IN CARMEL, CALIFORNIA."

"THEN, LATE LAST YEAR, MY OLD FRIEND AUGUST, CALLED..."



"...URGENTLY REQUESTING THAT I MEET WITH HIM THAT WAS WHEN HE DROPPED THE BOMBHELL..."

YES...AND NOW I NEED YOUR HELP--IN FORMULATING A PLAN...

YOU WERE MOCKINGBIRD?



"TO STOP THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WEAPON I BELIEVE POSES A GREATER THREAT TO HUMANITY THAN NUCLEAR WAR!"

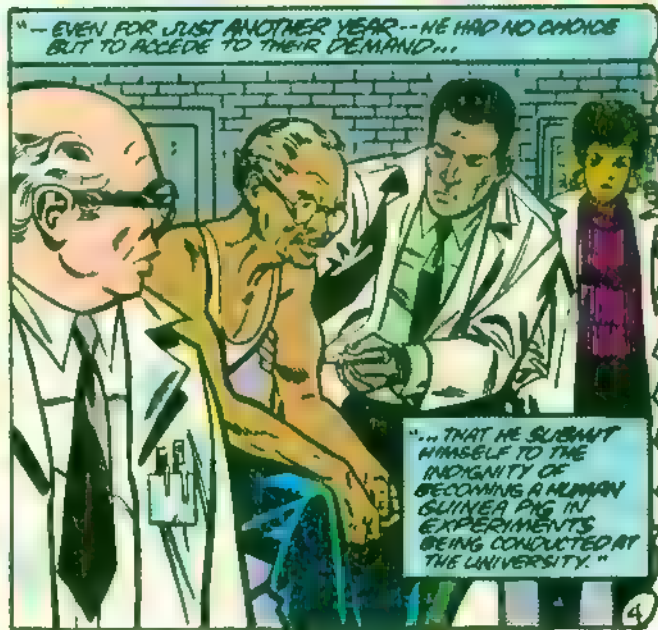
"AND THEN HE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HOW HE CAME TO BE AWARE OF THIS WEAPON..."



ONCE AGAIN, DR DURANT, WE REQUIRE YOUR CO-OPERATION...

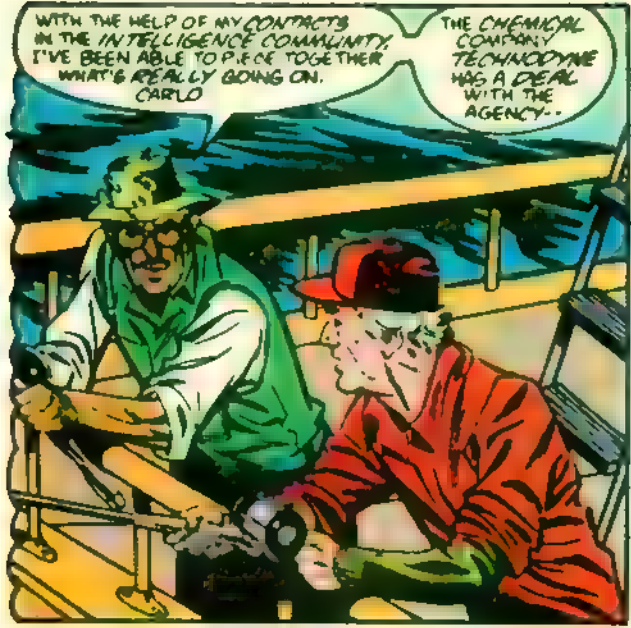
"AT THAT POINT AUGUST HAD BEEN SEMI-RETIRED FROM TEACHING--AT JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY--FOR SOME TIME... BUT 'THE AGENCY' WAS STILL SUPPLYING HIS MEDICATION."

"AND SO, IF HE WANTED TO GO ON LIVING--"



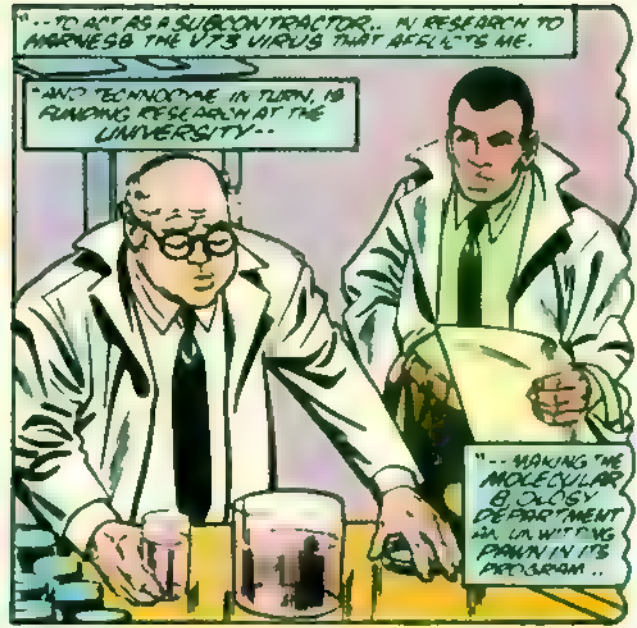
"-- EVEN FOR JUST ANOTHER YEAR--HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEDE TO THEIR DEMAND..."

"... THAT HE SUBMIT HIMSELF TO THE INDIGNITY OF BECOMING A HUMAN GUINEA PIG IN EXPERIMENTS BEING CONDUCTED AT THIS UNIVERSITY."



WITH THE HELP OF MY CONTACTS IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO PIECE TOGETHER WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON.
CARLO

THE CHEMICAL COMPANY TECHNOVINE HAS A DEAL WITH THE AGENCY...



"...TO ACT AS A SUBCONTRACTOR... IN RESEARCH TO HARNESS THE VTS VIRUS THAT AFFECTS ME.

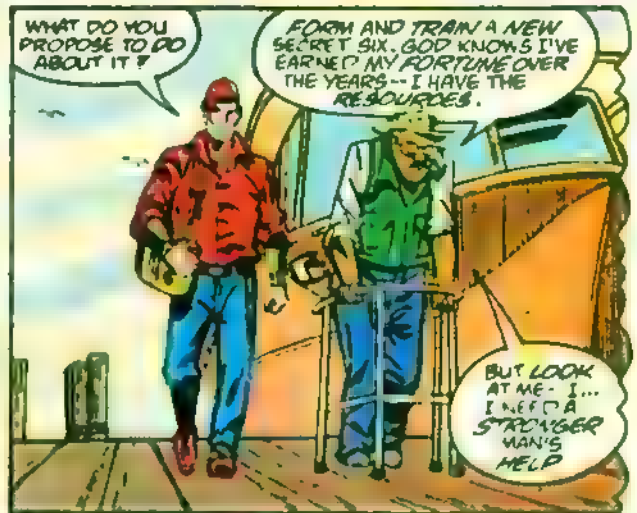
"AND TECHNOVINE IN TURN, IS FUNDING RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY..."

"...MAKING THE MOLECULAR BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT AN UNWITTING PART IN ITS PROGRAM..."



"...TO CREATE A MUTATED STRAIN OF THE VIRUS--ONE FOR WHICH, UNLIKE 'MINE,' THERE WILL BE NO ANTIDOTE.

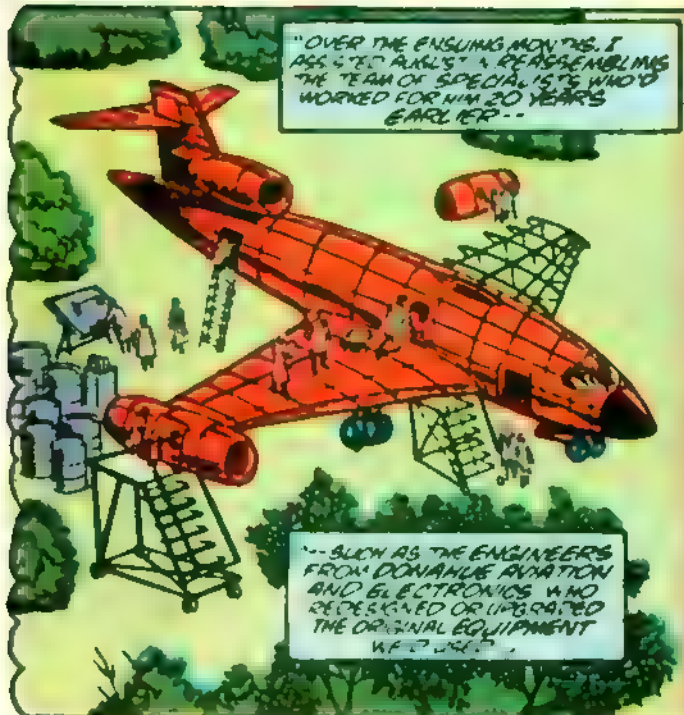
ONE THAT CAN BE USED AS A WEAPON: TAKING BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE TO ITS NEWEST, DEADLIEST EXTREME.



WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO ABOUT IT?

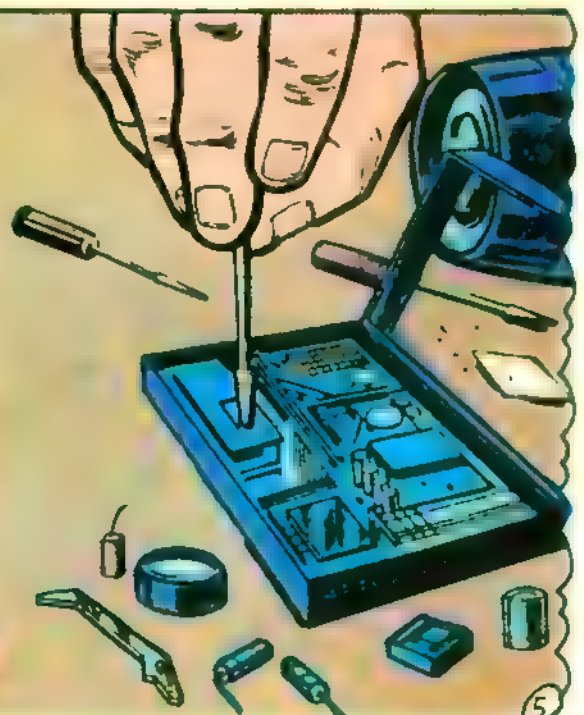
FORM AND TRAIN A NEW SECRET SIX. GOD KNOWS I'VE EARNED MY FORTUNE OVER THE YEARS--I HAVE THE RESOURCES.

BUT LOOK AT ME--I... I NEED A STRONGER MAN'S HELP



"OVER THE ENSUING MONTHS, I ASSEMBLED AKA'S A REASSEMBLING THE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS WHO'D WORKED FOR HIM 20 YEARS EARLIER..."

"...SUCH AS THE ENGINEERS FROM DONAHUE AVIATION AND ELECTRONICS WHO REDESIGNED OR UPGRADED THE ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT WE'D USED."



AND PASSENGERS THIS WAS
HAPPENING IN THE HALL OF
ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT

"THE STAFF THAT SEARCHED FOR
LAWYERS AND WITH A LITTLE
BE PERSUADED TO WORK FOR
US."



THEN EXTENDED THE
MAY 1972-73 "MAY
ON 1972-73 AND
AA 25-1972-73
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE"

"AND THE DOCTORS AND
THE INCREDIBLE DEVICES
THAT FREE YOU FROM YOUR
MACHINES"

ALL THAT THE DOCTORS AND
THE INCREDIBLE DEVICES
THAT FREE YOU FROM YOUR
MACHINES

AND AT THE SAME TIME THE
AND AT THE SAME TIME THE
AND AT THE SAME TIME THE



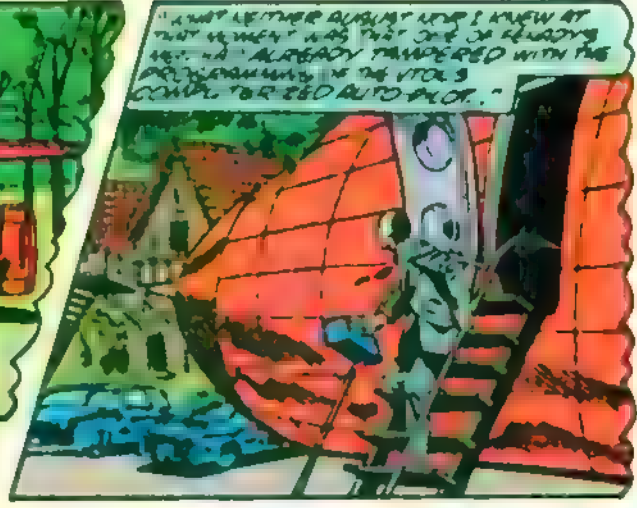
THE FIRST PHASE OF OUR CAMPAIGN WAS
SET IN MOTION ON THE NIGHT OF 1972-73

AND ALL OF YOU WERE
AND ALL OF YOU WERE
AND ALL OF YOU WERE

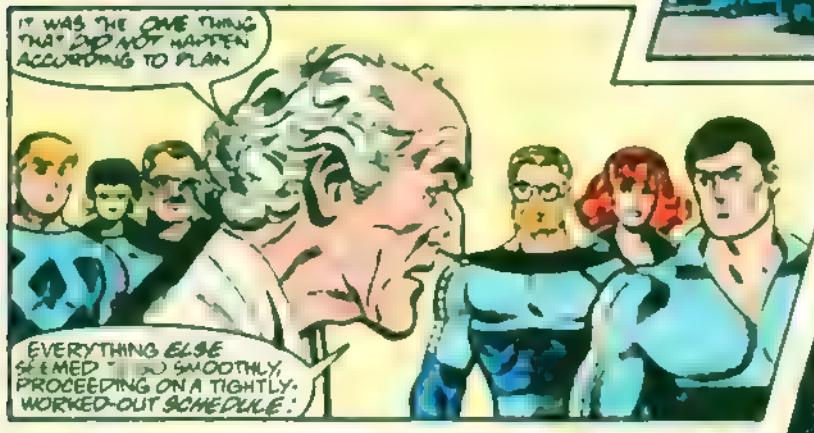




THE VTOL WILL TAKE YOU TO YOUR
DESTINATION IN SAN FRANCISCO--
WHERE YOU WILL BEGIN THE
TRAINING OF YOUR
SUCCESSORS...

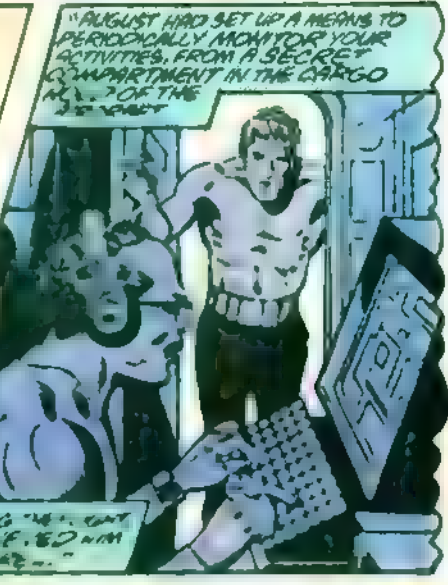


"I WON'T LETHER DUBIAT AFTER I KNEW AT
THAT MOMENT WAS THAT ONE OF READING
WAS. HA. ALREADY TAMPERED WITH THE
PROGRAMMING OF THE VTOL'S
COMPUTERIZED AUTO PILOT."



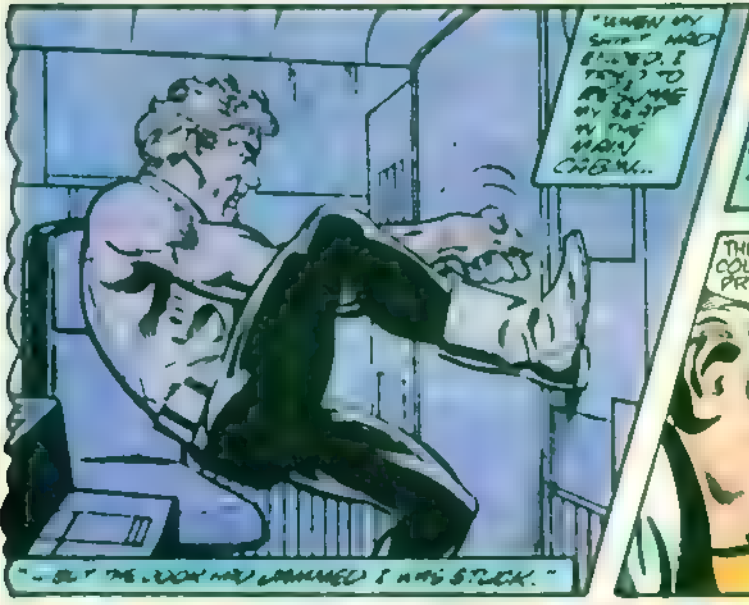
IT WAS THE ONE THING
THAT DID NOT HAPPEN
ACCORDING TO PLAN

EVERYTHING ELSE
SEEMED TO SMOOTHLY
PROCEEDING ON A TIGHTLY
WORKED-OUT SCHEDULE:



"AUGUST HAD SET UP A MEANS TO
PERIODICALLY MONITOR YOUR
ACTIVITIES, FROM A SECRE
COMPARTMENT IN THE CARGO
AREA OF THE
3RD FLOOR

"DURING THE NIGHT
I RE-ENTERED HIM
HERE..."



"WHEN MY
SUIT HAD
ENTERED, I
TRIED TO
RE-ENTER
MYSELF
IN THE
MAIN
CORRIDOR..."

"...BUT THE LOCK HAD LOCKED & I WAS STUCK."



THERE WAS NO WAY I
COULD KNOW IT AT THAT
PRECISE MOMENT...

... BUT I HAD JUST
SEEN THE REST OF
THE SECRET SIX--
ALIVE--FOR THE
LAST TIME.



WHAT IN
HELL?

JOHN
BUT?



next: Farewell to the MOCKINGBIRD

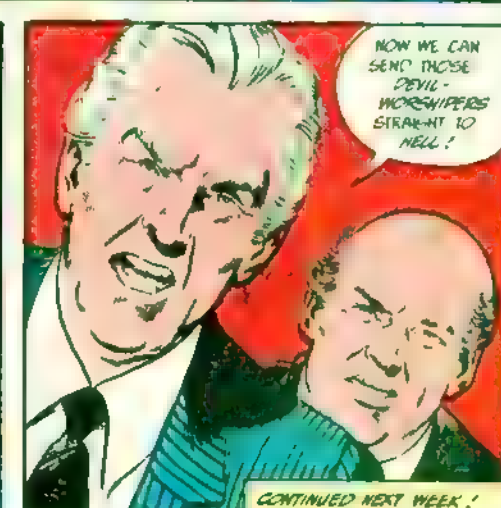
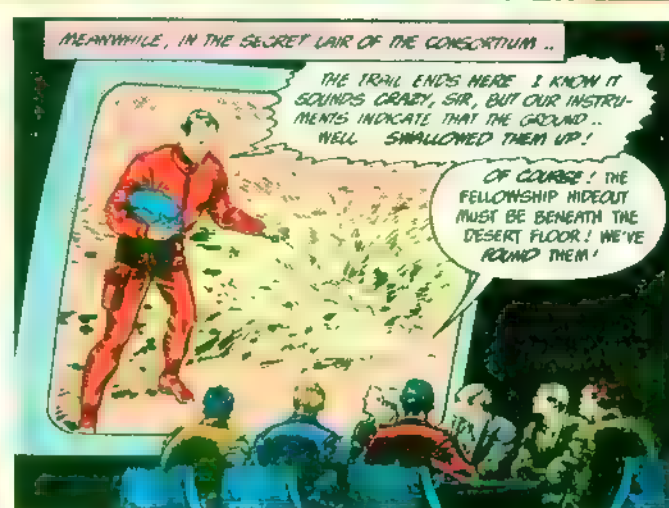
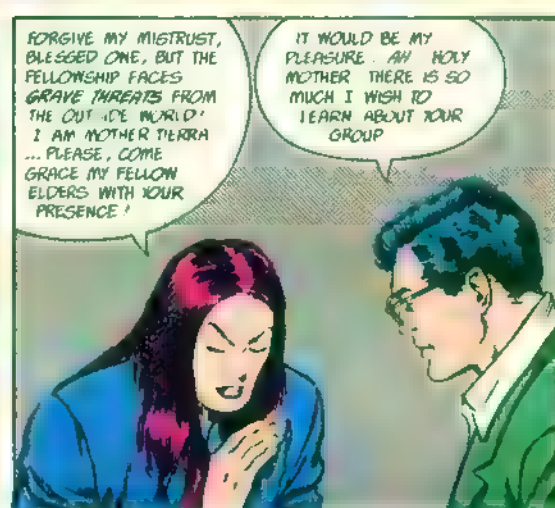
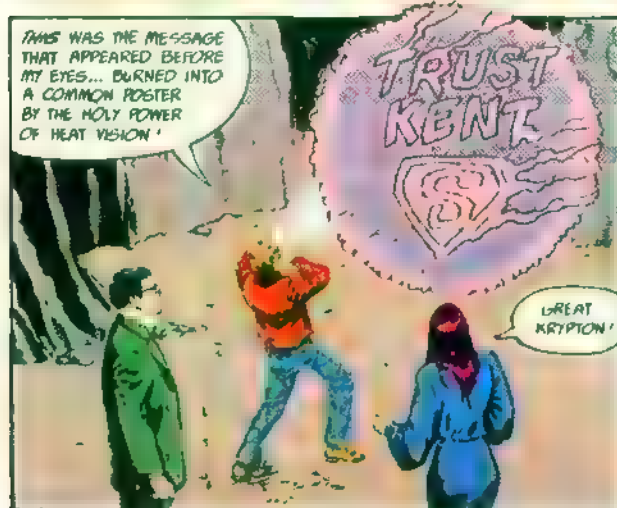
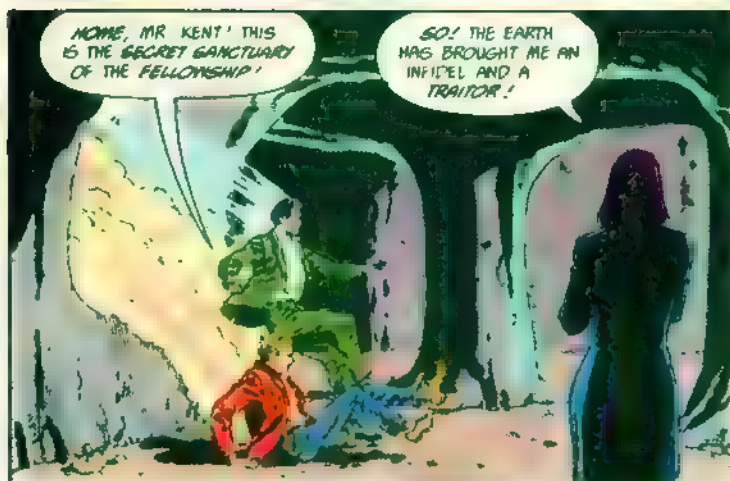
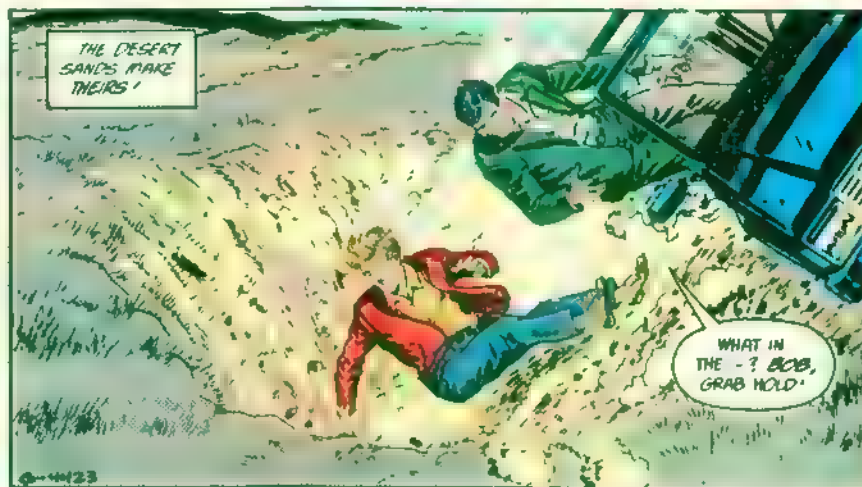
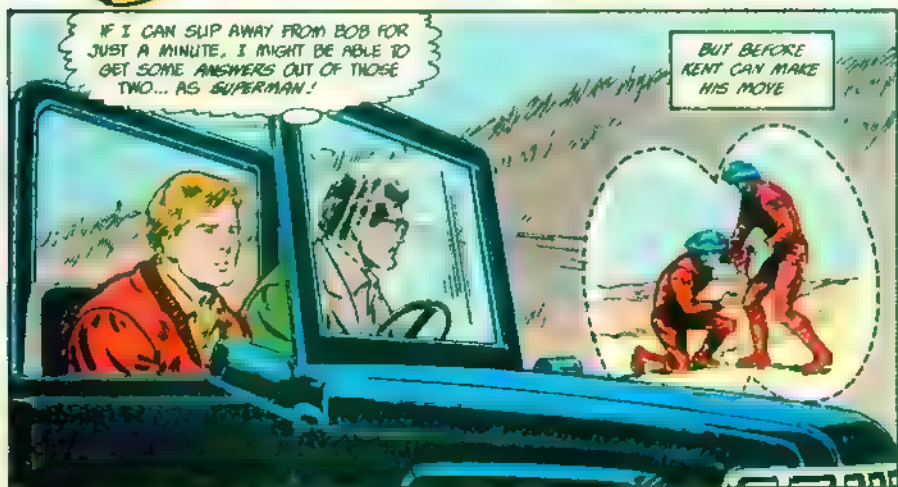
SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

LAST WEEK: WITH A LITTLE COACHING
FROM CLARK KENT, SUPERMAN-
WORSHIPER BOB GALT UTILIZED HIS
IMAGE-CASTING POWER TO STOP TWO
CONSORTIUM ASSASSINS!

JOURNEY'S END

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL CHAFFLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



ROY HARPER ENTERS THE DARKENED HOUSE, WEARY FROM HIS JOURNEY TO NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE EVENTS THAT LED HIM THERE.

GOTTA BE A LIGHT SWITCH AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE

IT'S NOT THAT RUSTIC.

FROM OUT OF THE SHADOWS, A FIGURE THROWS ITSELF AT HIM

HIS FIRST THOUGHT IS TO PROTECT LIAM

CHERIE WILKERSON
WRITER
TOM MANDRAKE
ARTIST
AUSTIN MAS
LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY
COLORIST
BARBARA KESEL
EDITOR

LET ME GO!

OH, NO, YOU DON'T!

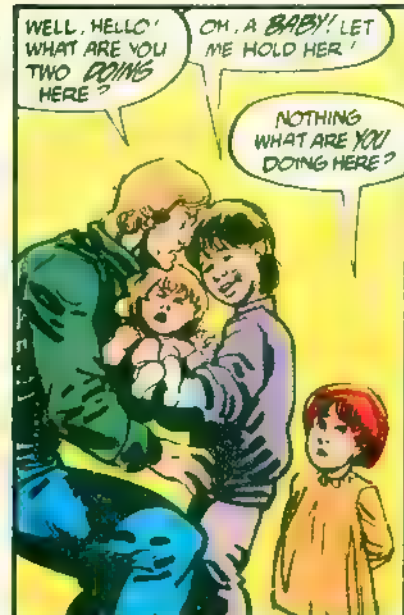
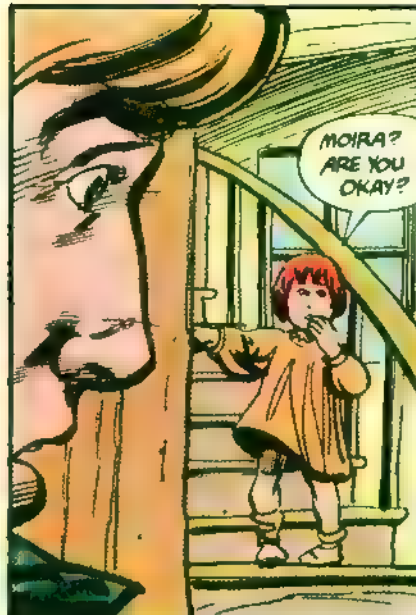
NIGHTWING

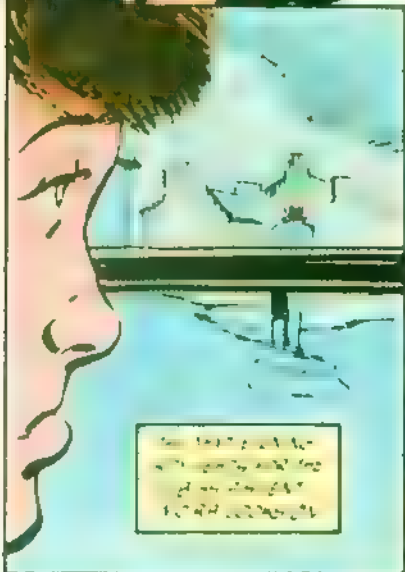
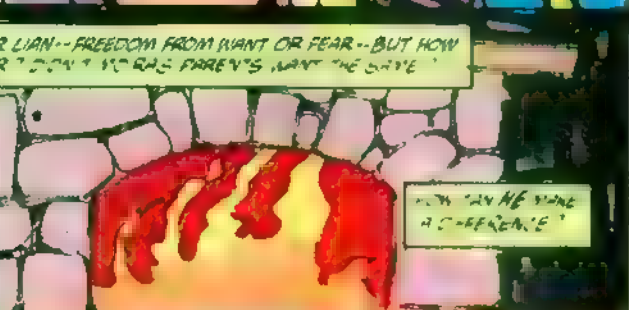
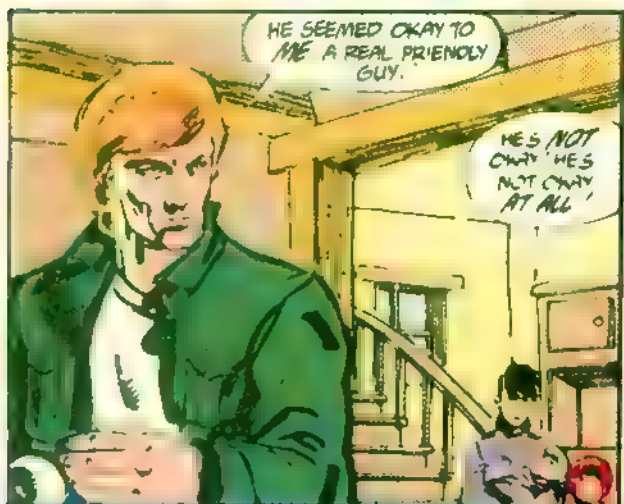
SPEEDY

ROCKS HARD PLACES

CHAPTER IV

NEW FRIENDS, OLD ENEMIES







IT'S A HINT OR
A WHISPER IN
GAELIC

BUT IT
MEANS **FREEDOM**
FOR NORTHERN
IRELAND

FOR YOU MAYBE,
BUT WHAT ABOUT TWO
LITTLE GIRLS WHOSE
FATHER WAS MURDERED?



MURDER?
PUTTING A
TRAITOR
TO DEATH IS NOT
MURDER.

IS IT,
LADS?



HEY, BARTENDER!
HEY YOU!

ENOUGH
WITH YOUR
SHOUTING!

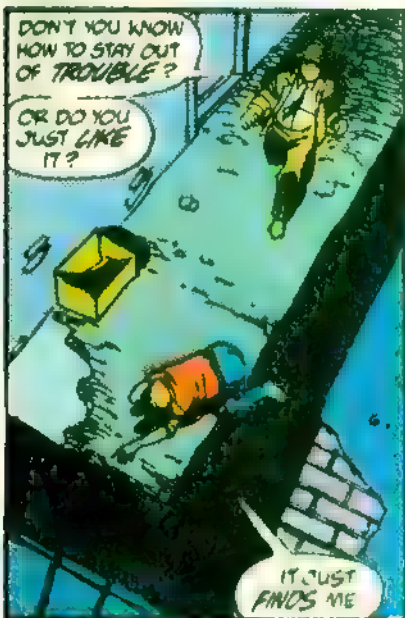


WE THOUGHT IF
THE FRIENDS OF
THE EMPIRE WERE
AFTER YOU YOU
WERE ONE OF
US!

YEAH,
WE SHOULD JUST
LET THE POLICE
HAVE YOU!



SOMEONE'S
COMING!



DON'T YOU KNOW
HOW TO STAY OUT
OF TROUBLE?

OR DO YOU
JUST LIKE
IT?

IT JUST
FINDS ME



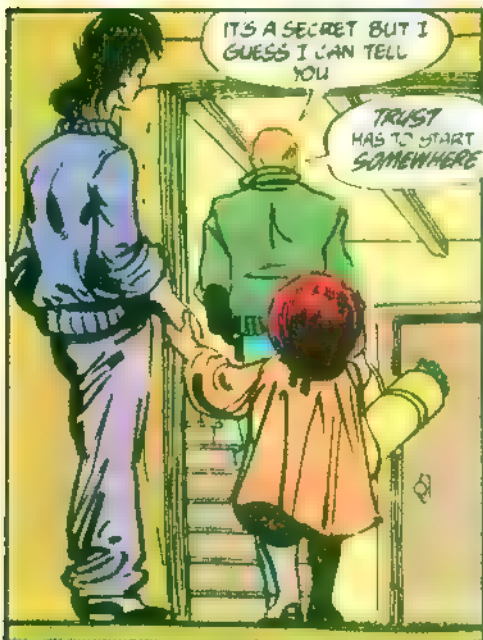
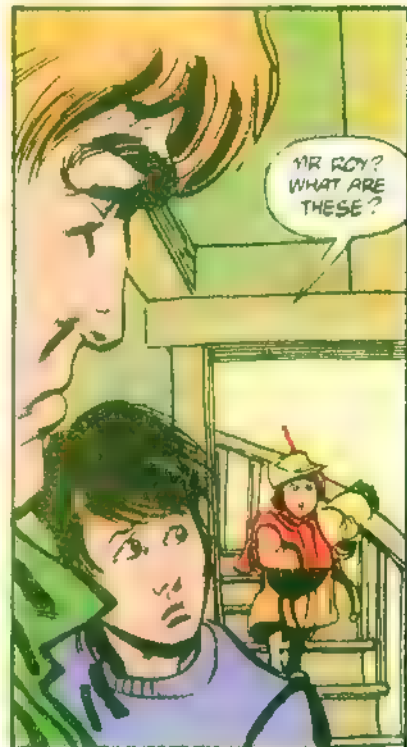
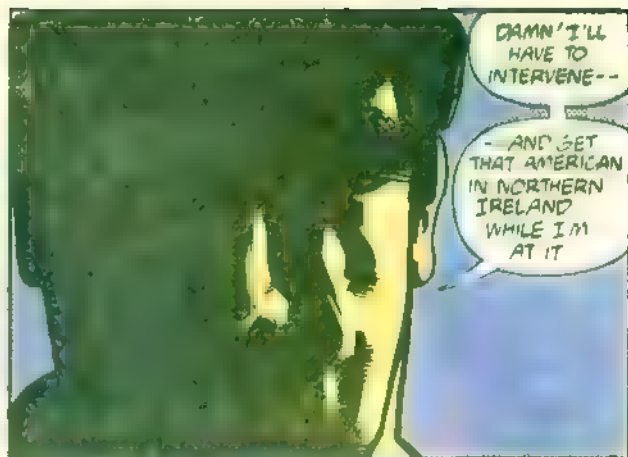
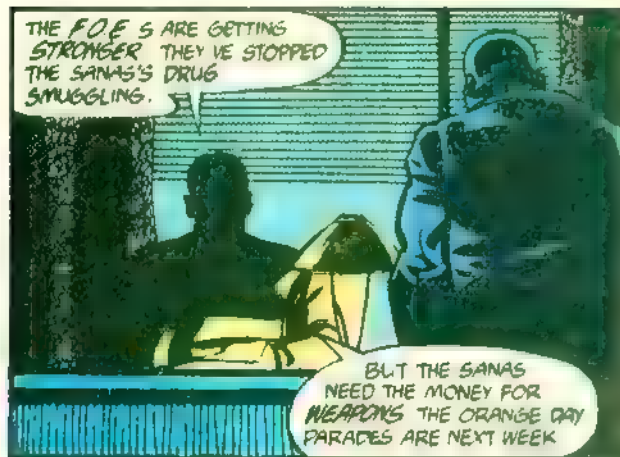
HOW COME
YOU ALWAYS
SHOW UP AT
THE LAST
MOMENT?

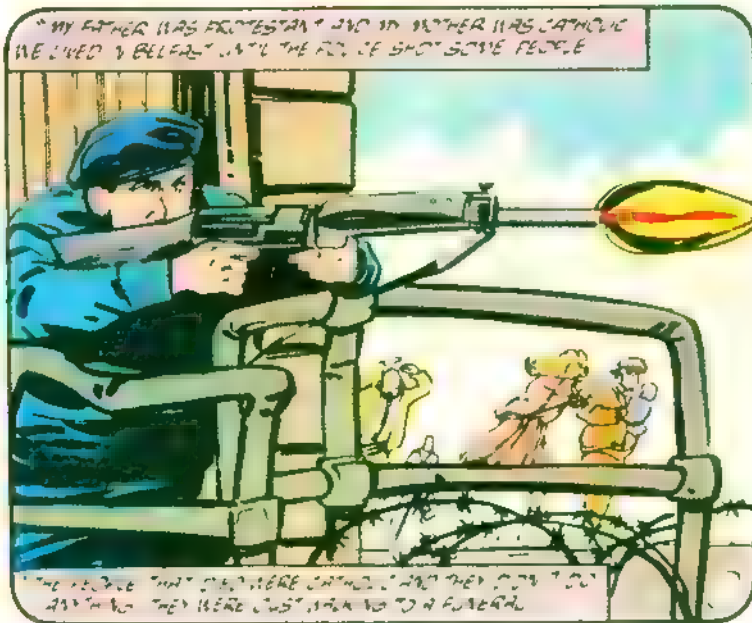
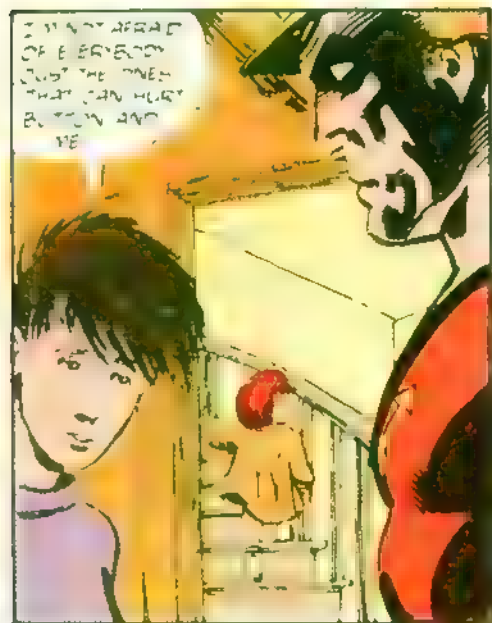
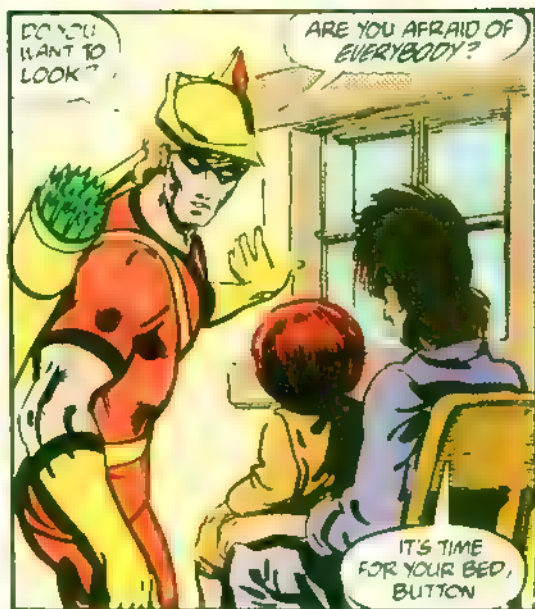
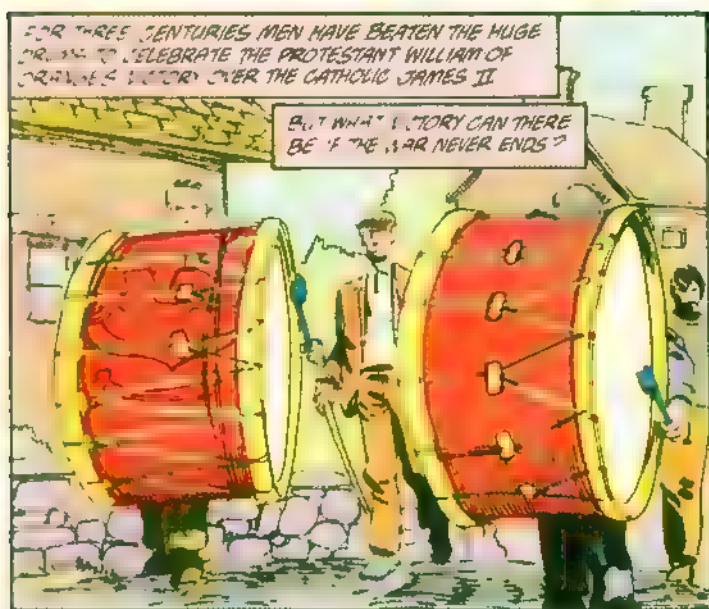
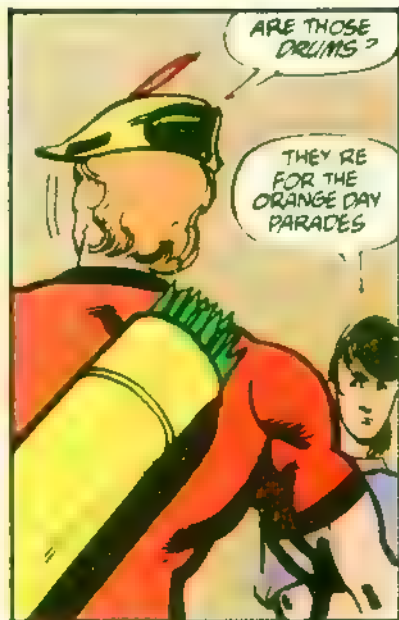
WHO ARE THESE FRIENDS
OF THE EMPIRE AND
WHAT DO THEY WANT
WITH ME?

AND
WHO ARE
YOU?



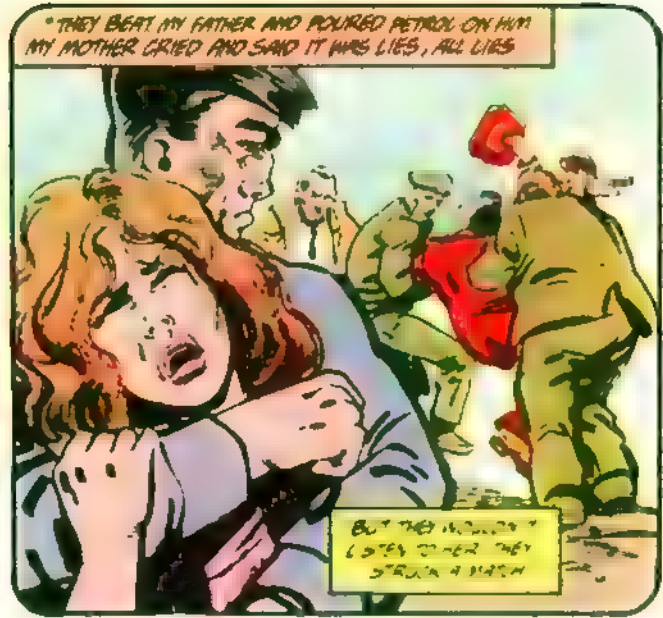
MY NAME'S HUNTER. BE CAREFUL--
OUTSIDERS WHO LEARN ABOUT
THE FOE'S TEND
TO DIE!







"THE SOLDIERS STOPPED IN FRONT OF MY MOTHER. THEY SAID MY FATHER BELONGED TO THEM. BUT MY FATHER BECAME A FRIEND TO THE SOLDIERS SO HE HAD TO BE THE ONE WHO TOOK THEM INTO HIS HOUSE."

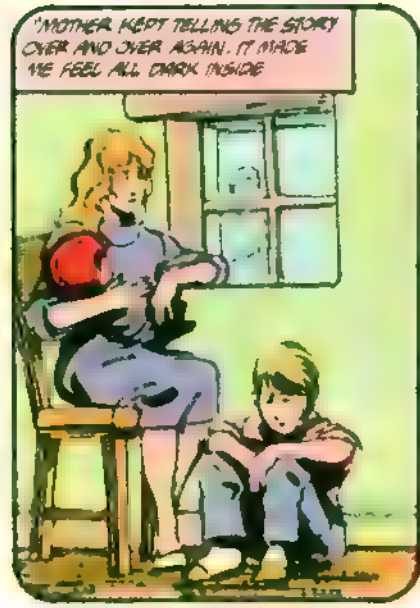


"THEY BEAT MY FATHER AND POURED PETROL ON HIM. MY MOTHER CRIED AND SAID IT WAS LIES, ALL LIES."

"BUT THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN TO HER. THEY STRUCK A MATCH."



"AND THEY KILLED MY FATHER."



"MY MOTHER KEPT TELLING THE STORY OVER AND OVER AGAIN. IT MADE ME FEEL ALL DARK INSIDE."



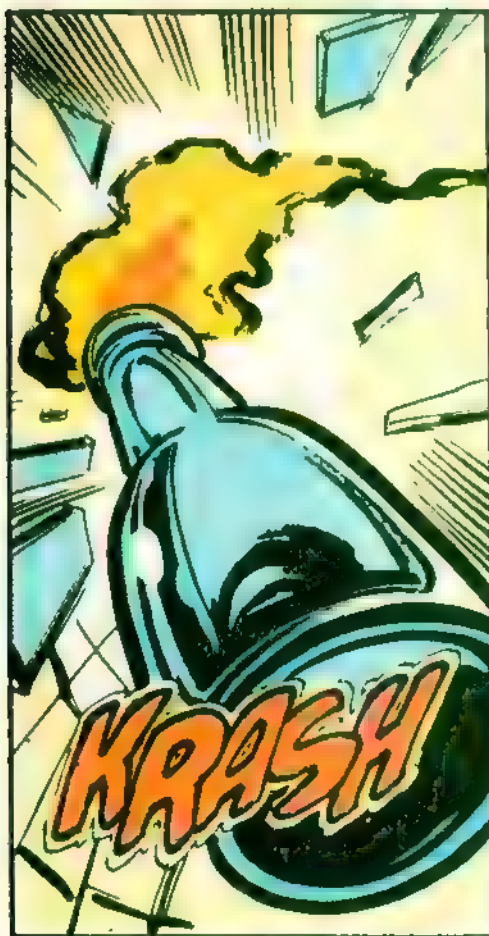
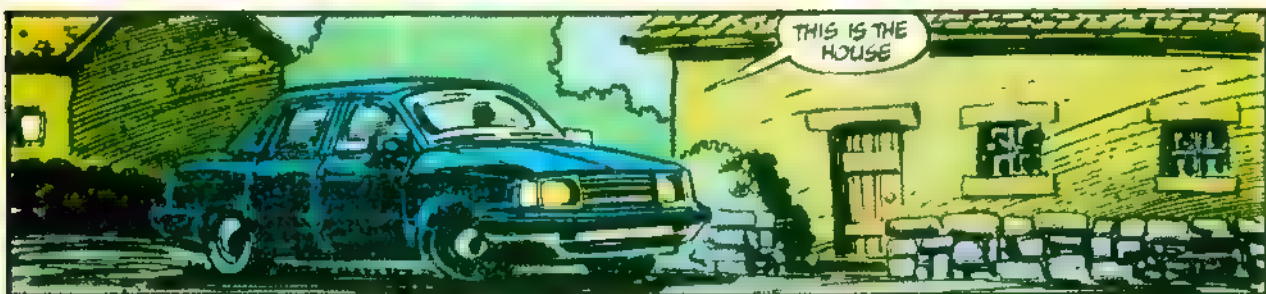
"A MAN CAME WHO SAID HE WAS A FRIEND OF MY MOTHER'S. HE HELPED US MOVE AND MY MOTHER STARTED TO SMILE AGAIN."



"THE FIRST TIME HE CALLED, HE SAID 'HELLO'. THE SECOND TIME HE SAID 'HELLO'. THE THIRD TIME HE SAID 'HELLO'. THE FOURTH TIME HE SAID 'HELLO'. THE FIFTH TIME HE SAID 'HELLO'."



"MY MOTHER JUST TALKED ABOUT THE PAST AND THE FUTURE."

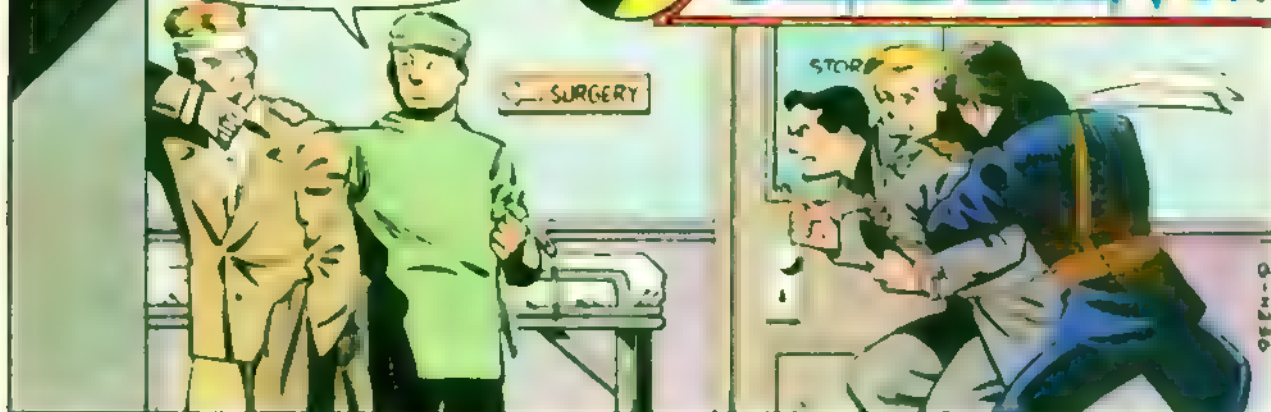


THERE WAS
NOTHING WE
COULD DO MR
RICHARDSON

AND, FRANKLY, IT'S MORE
MERCIFUL THAN SAY THE
ARMY TO SEVERED HER
SPINAL CORD. VEG
ROSSITER SURVIVED, SHE
WASN'T EVEN COMPLETELY
PARALYZED



BLACKHAWK



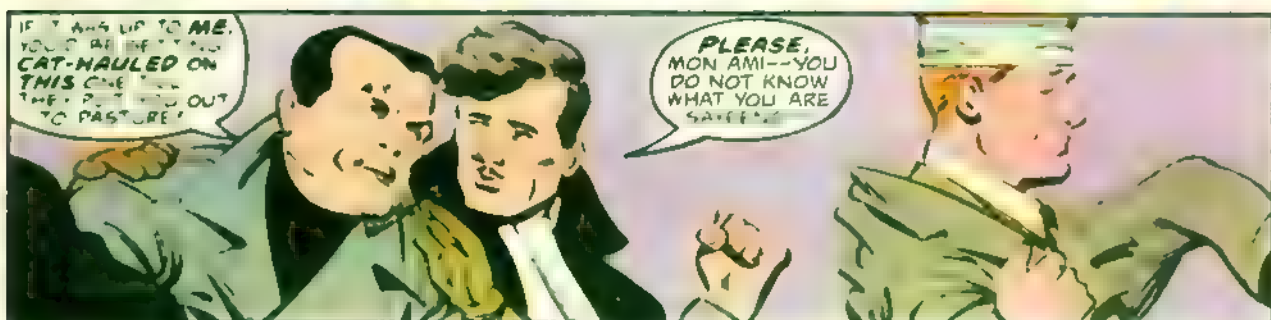
BALLED UP
THAT OPERATION
IN SUMATRA
SOMETHING FIERCE
YOU KNOW THAT?

MARCIA
STILL BE ALIVE
NOW IF IT WASN'T
FOR THAT!



IF IT WAS UP TO ME,
YOU'D BE GETTING
CAT-HAULED ON
THIS ONE
THEY PUT YOU OUT
TO PASTURE!

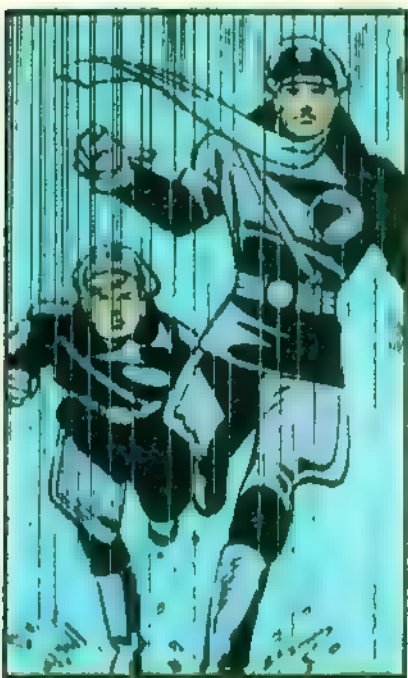
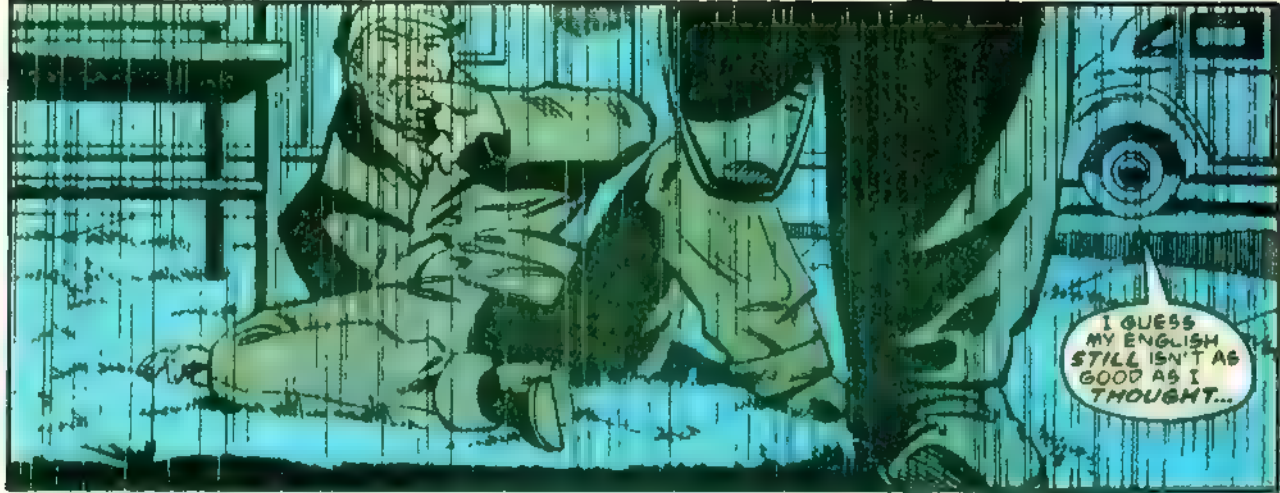
PLEASE,
MON AMI--YOU
DO NOT KNOW
WHAT YOU ARE
SAVING!

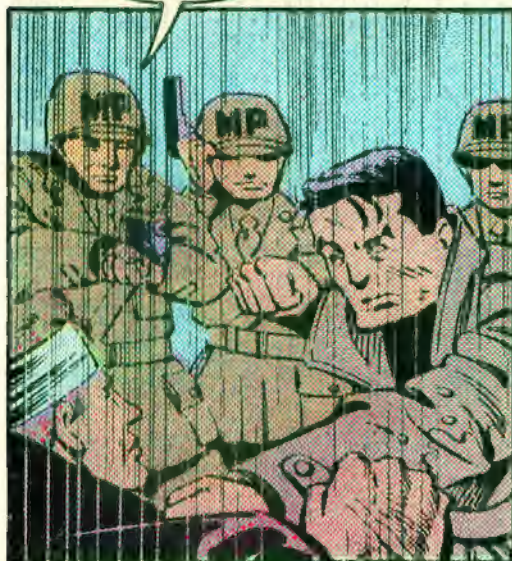
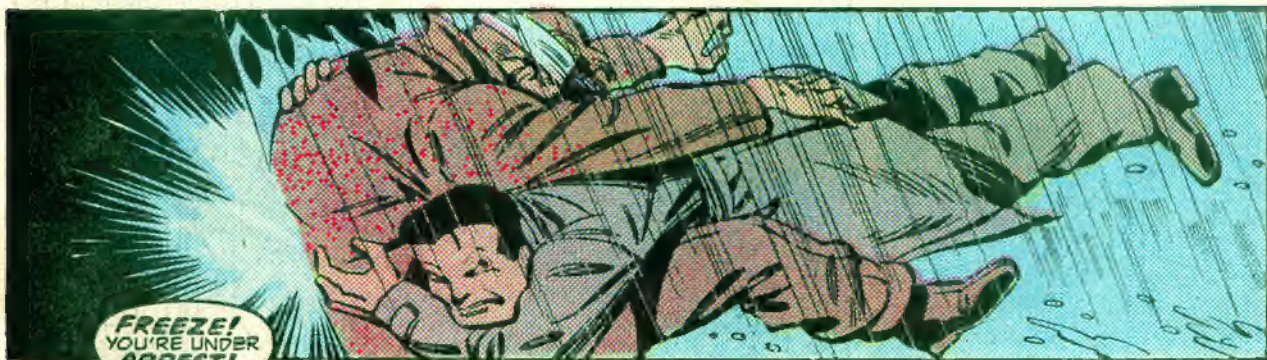


YEAH, JAIL, GIVE
'EM A PLACE TO
PUT THEM
OR PLACE FOR

LET THE ARMY
OFF WITH BOTH
A GOOD NEW
HELPER!







MEANWHILE--
SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE
MUNICH:

<THE
COURIER
WILL NOT
ARRIVE.>

<I HAVE
RECEIVED
WORD...>

<...THAT THE ARMY
OF THE AMERICAN
MILITARY GOVERNMENT
HAS **RAIDED** THE
PORCELAIN WORKS
IN MUNICHEN WHERE THE
LABORATORY HAD
BEEN **SECRETED**.

<OUR
SCIENTISTS
ARE DEAD...>

<...AND THE AMERICANS
HAVE CONFISCATED THE
LAST **SAMPLES** OF THE
LATE **DR. SCHMELING'S**
MIRACLE.

<WE HAVE
NO CONFIRMATION
OF THIS, BUT I SUSPECT
THEY HAVE THE **FORMULA**
AS WELL.>

<OUR SOURCES WITH
CONTACTS ON THE
ALLIED CONTROL
COUNCIL WILL KEEP
US **INFORMED** OF
THE **FORMULA'S**
DISPOSITION...?>

<YES, **FRAU**
KOBLENZ.>

<NO DOUBT
BOTH THE **DRUG**
AND THE **FORMULA**
WILL BE SHIPPED TO
THE **UNITED**
STATES...>

<AND, SINCE
BOTH WILL BE
INDISPENSABLE
TO THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE **NEW ORDER**
TO WHICH WE
DEDICATE
OURSELVES...>

<...THAT,
MEIN HERREN,
IS SOMETHING
WE SHALL
PREVENT-->

<--IF
NECESSARY,
AT THE **EXPENSE**
OF OUR VERY
LIVES.>

CHANGI AIRFIELD--
SOME TIME LATER:

I WAS
JUST GOING
FOR SOME
OF THAT
MYSELF.

JAN! WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOU? YOU HARDLY
SAID TWO WORDS TO ME
ONCE YOU LANDED, AND
THEN YOU WERE OUT
OF HERE SO FAST--!

SKIP IT,
NAT--IT'S A
LONG STORY AND
I'M BEAT.

LET'S JUST SAY THAT IF
OUR FORMER CLIENT
DIDN'T HAVE MAJOR
PULL WITH THE STATE
DEPARTMENT, HE'D BE
SPENDING THE NIGHT IN
THE LOCAL STOCKADE...

...AND I'D
BE GETTING THE
BAMBOO SHOOTS
FROM THE WOG
COPPERS.

LOOK, NOTHING
PERSONAL, NAT,
BUT I ONLY CAME
BACK HERE FOR A
SHORT BLANKET
DRILL--SOLO.

BUT DON'T
RUSH OFF
JUST YET.

BLACKHAWK AIRWAY

WHY NOT, IF YOU
WON'T TELL ME WHAT'S
EATING YOU?

I'VE KNOWN
YOU TOO LONG
TO TAKE THE
BRUSH-OFF...

NOT WON'T
--CAN'T.

HE WAS RIGHT...
I DIDN'T KNOW
HER, NOT REALLY
...AND YET...

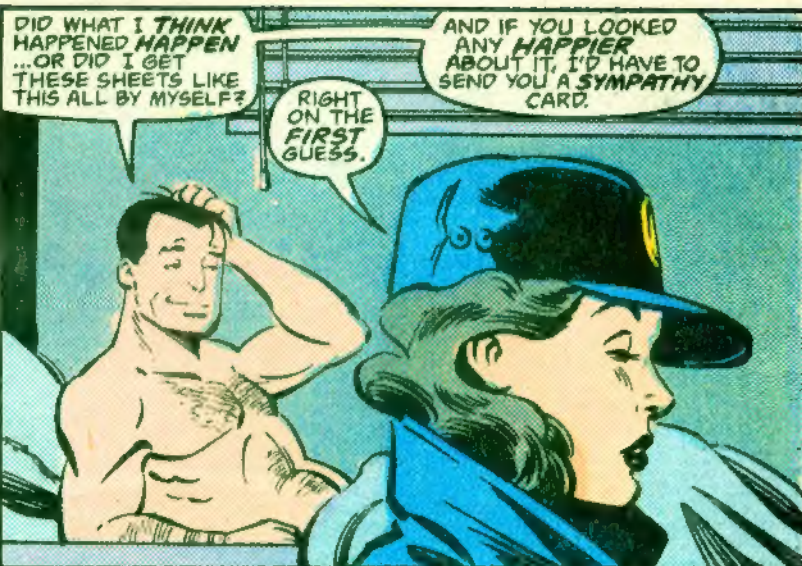
I HEARD
ABOUT THE
GIRL...



DID WHAT I *THINK* HAPPENED...OR DID I GET THESE SHEETS LIKE THIS ALL BY MYSELF?

RIGHT ON THE FIRST GUESS.

AND IF YOU LOOKED ANY *HAPPIER* ABOUT IT, I'D HAVE TO SEND YOU A SYMPATHY CARD.



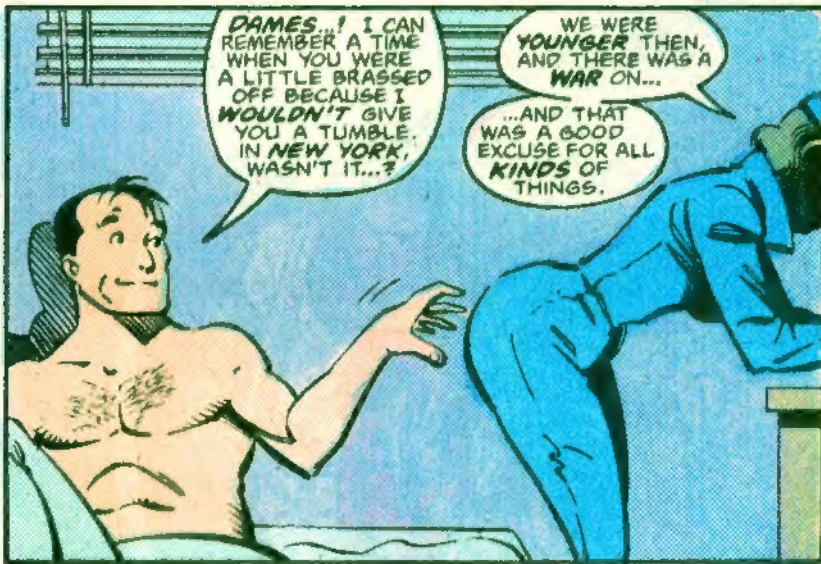
DAMES...! I CAN REMEMBER A TIME WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE BRASSED OFF BECAUSE I WOULDN'T GIVE YOU A TUMBLE IN NEW YORK, WASN'T IT...?

WE WERE YOUNGER THEN, AND THERE WAS A WAR ON...

...AND THAT WAS A GOOD EXCUSE FOR ALL KINDS OF THINGS.

NOW DRY UP AND READ YOUR MAIL --I NEED TO TALK TO YOU. AS SOON AS I CAN HAVE YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION.

WHACK



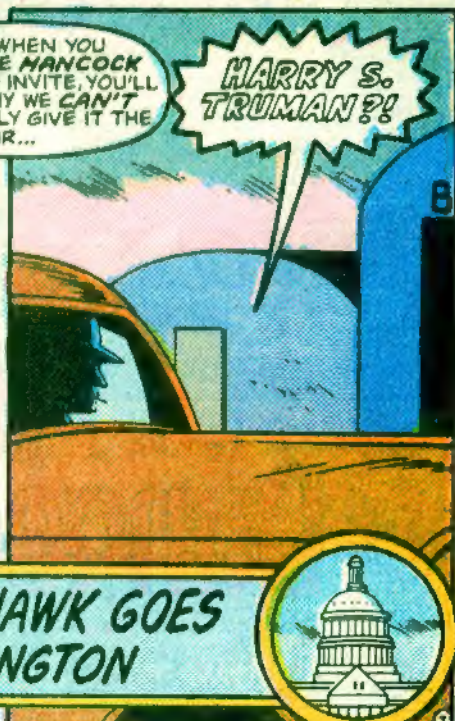
IT WOULDN'T GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR GOING BACK TO THE STATES, WOULD IT?

WELL... NO, IN FACT, THAT'S JUST IT-- I NEED TO. BUT... BUT WHY?

'CAUSE WE'VE JUST BEEN INVITED TO WASHINGTON FOR SOME KIND OF HIGH-LEVEL CONFAB-- TOTALLY CUFFO, COURTESY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

AND WHEN YOU SEE THE HANCOCK ON THE INVITE, YOU'LL SEE WHY WE CAN'T EXACTLY GIVE IT THE AIR...

HARRY S. TRUMAN?!



NEXT WEEK:

MR. BLACKHAWK GOES TO WASHINGTON

